

Israeli night revenge raids leave 21 dead

New attack on Lebanon defies world opinion

By Ian Murray in Jerusalem and Juan Carlos Gumacio in West Beirut.

Israeli forces launched a series of revenge raids against guerrilla positions in southern Lebanon at the weekend, leaving at least 21 dead and more than 20 injured.

The raids, using planes, helicopter-gunships and gunboats, were in retaliation for last year's hang-glider attack which killed six Israeli soldiers and deeply humiliated the Israeli military.

The attacks, said by Lebanese hospital and militia sources to have killed and injured several civilians, will mean yet more embarrassment for Israel's allies, already in difficulties over the country's hard-line policies in the past few weeks towards the

unrest in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

To compound what some observers see as the weekend in which Israel cocked a snook at world opinion, within hours of the late-night raids the Israeli Government announced it was to deport nine Palestinians, despite strong condemnation for the moves from the United States, Europe and friendly Middle East states.

In a bid to head off criticism from its most important ally, the United States, the Israeli Government had been asked by the United States not to take revenge for the incursion, particularly during the period of the Washington summit between President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, as it was felt this would heighten tensions in the area and amount to a snub to long-standing demands by the United Nations to exercise restraint.

Yesterday rescue workers were still digging through the remains of three buildings described as command posts of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the outskirts of Sidon and in Druze-controlled hills near the port of Tyre.

Hospital and militia sources in southern Lebanon said at least 21 people, many of them Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, were killed and more than 20 were wounded during the attacks. Witnesses said that three militiamen of the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party were among the dead.

Likely to cause even more world-wide condemnation than the raids, however, were the deportation orders. Last night the Palestine Liberation Organization insisted that no country in the Middle East would accept those deported.

The United States has repeatedly urged Israel to avoid expulsions.

But the United States Cabinet yesterday approved both the raids and the deportations as part of the get-tough policy agreed on to crack down on Palestinian unrest.

The deportations are aimed both at depriving the Palestinians of leaders and at specifically showing the United States and the world that Israel alone will decide what to do to protect itself.

Despite world-wide condemnation of the way it put down the unrest, in which 23 people have died, the coalition Government is united in supporting the tough measures.

Israel's Foreign Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, went on US television last night with a strong defence of his country's actions, insisting that since there was no capital punishment, deportation was the strongest measure available.

But Mr David Good, spokesman for the US Consulate in East Jerusalem, which is responsible for American policy in the territories, said there would undoubtedly be a response from Washington later today.

Mr David Mellor, the junior Foreign Office Minister responsible for the Middle East who is currently in Jerusalem, immediately gave a warning that the deportation orders would not reduce the tensions which had caused the recent disturbances and that they were contrary to international law.

One immediate casualty of Israel's defiant attitude could be its carefully negotiated protocol with the European Economic Community which gives it preferential rates for the export of its goods to the community. This agreement has yet to be ratified by Euro MPs.

The raids on Saturday, carried out - unusually for Israeli operations - under cover of darkness, were aimed at striking

Celebration at No 10 as record is broken

Thatcher calls for a clean-up Britain crusade

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher put herself at the head of a crusade to clean up the country, both morally and spiritually, yesterday as she became the longest-serving Prime Minister this century.

Thatcher said cruelty towards children was the "biggest blot on civilized life" in Britain today and that she yearned for the return of traditional values of fairness, integrity, honesty and courtesy.

In an interview of remarkable candour marking her record eight years and 244 days in power, she pronounced the cure of the British disease as her greatest achievement.

But in the medium and longer term she was increasingly turning her attentions towards less tangible goals, while maintaining her commitments to sound money and defence and pressing ahead with her mission to extend opportunity and personal responsibility.

Her remarks came as she prepared for today's dawn flight to Africa for a week-long tour of Kenya and Nigeria, and as former colleagues and associates give their assessments of her epoch-making rule.

Lord Hailsham, a former Lord Chancellor, says in a BBC *Panorama* programme to be screened tonight that she most reminds him of Queen Elizabeth I.

But in the same programme, Sir John Nott, her Defence Secretary during the Falklands War, speaks of her habit of "going over the top" and says that the wets, now almost all banished from her Cabinet, provided very necessary restraint. Her administration is becoming "centralist and slightly authoritarian", but he has no doubt that she will be remembered as one of the greatest Prime Ministers this century.

In her interview, Mrs Thatcher said cruelty towards children was the "biggest blot on civilized life" in Britain today and that she yearned for the return of traditional values of fairness, integrity, honesty and courtesy.

She was particularly worried about young people, who were "trying out" for a code of behaviour by which they could live their lives.

The Prime Minister also underlined her concern about the physical fabric of the country, linking eyesores such as litter and graffiti to a lack of moral sense and saying she wanted to "beautify Britain".

And in characteristically homespun words that under-

lined her intention to stay in office long after Asquith's reputation for political longevity has been eclipsed, she made clear she saw it as her Government's business to bring a new sense of civic responsibility to daily life.

The Prime Minister told Mr Chris Moncrieff, the Press Association's chief political correspondent, that she would like 1988 to be the year the tide of child abuse cases turned.

"One of the worst things we have to grapple with is cruelty to children. Here we have a more prosperous Britain than ever before, yet there is still a need for the NSPCC.

"There are still terrible cases connected with children. When it was founded, they must have hoped that over 100 years later there would be

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Mrs Thatcher in a determined mood yesterday during the interview at 10 Downing Street.

Far East shares crash feared after arrests

By Our City Staff

The Hong Kong stock exchange is bracing itself for a sharp price crash today after the arrest of Mr Ronald Li, its former chairman, and two other top executives.

The three men were arrested by the Crown Colony's Independent Commission Against Corruption in dawn raids on Saturday.

They have been released on a combined bail of more than HK\$14 million (£1 million) while the ICAC continues its investigations. All three have had to surrender their passports.

The arrest of Mr Li, Mr Jeffrey Sun, the exchange's chief executive officer, and Mr Donald Tsang, the head of the exchange's listing department, is the latest in a series of crises to hit the Hong Kong market.

The Hong Kong stock exchange was hit harder than anywhere else when share prices crashed in October. Mr Li, who last year planned to float a nightclub with 1,000 hostesses on the exchange, was

widely criticized for suspending trading for four days after Black Monday.

When trading restarted, HK\$200 billion was wiped from the value of the Crown Colony's shares in one day. Then the futures exchange had to be bailed out with a HK\$4 billion rescue

package put together by Hambro Bank of London.

Mr Li, said to be the third richest man in Hong Kong with a personal fortune worth HK\$14 billion, resigned as deputy chairman of the futures exchange as part of the rescue deal. And on December 16 he stepped down as chairman of the stock exchange after completing his two-year term of office.

The Hong Kong government brought Mr Robert Fell, the former Hong Kong banking commissioner, out of retirement and put him in

overall control of the stock exchange to try to restore confidence in the Colony as a world financial centre.

After the weekend arrests, Mr Fell announced sweeping changes to the exchange management. A new management team has been appointed, which excludes Mr Charles Sin, the newly elected chairman.

And yesterday Mr Fell said the exchange's secretary and general manager, Mr CW Tsang, was being replaced by a London Stock Exchange official, Miss Susan Selwyn, who has been seconded for a year.

Yesterday Mr Sin attacked the ICAC arrests, saying: "They will inevitably cause uncertainty over the management of the stock exchange and hence affect market stability to some degree."

Mr Fell said it would be "business as usual" on the exchange today, but local stockbrokers expect a fall of at least 100 points on the Hang Seng index.

Storm over 'secret' research cuts

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was at the centre of a political storm last night after the leak of a confidential Whitehall memorandum disclosing that tough new rules are to be applied to state support for scientific research and development.

Labour accused ministers at the Department of Trade and Industry of "deliberate deception" by secretly cutting back an £80 million package of grants to small firms in the high technology sector.

It said the latest squeeze meant that the Government was "killing off our high technology industries as quickly as they have destroyed our traditional industries".

Officials at the department

refused to comment on "information that falls into someone's hands as a result of an unauthorized disclosure".

Sources did confirm, however, that the memorandum from Mr Anthony Kesten, a senior official in the department's official Research and Technology Policy Unit, was genuine. They also indicated that a high-level internal inquiry is likely to begin today into how the document came to be passed to Mr Gordon Brown, opposition Treasury spokesman.

Mr Brown has written to the Prime Minister about the "wholly inadequate" level of

Continued on page 18, col 1

Climber dies in blizzard

Coastguards and mountain rescue teams battled against gales and blizzards yesterday in an attempt to save an injured climber on the Hebridean island of Rhum.

Mr Graham Leaver, a dental student aged 22 from Cramond Road, Edinburgh, died hours before rescuers reached him.

Two helicopters were forced back by the driving blizzards, but volunteer coastguards on the tiny island fought their way through the snow, which reduced visibility to 20 ft during the 15-hour rescue 2,000 ft up on Mount Achival.

There was no end in sight last night to the rain and gales that swept across Britain over the weekend and left more than 10,000 people in the South-east without electricity.

Although power was restored on Sunday to most of the communities in Sussex, Kent and Surrey cut off by the storms, the Met Office predicted a continuing period of showers and very strong winds over much of the country.

The South coast, the West

Continued on page 2, col 5



Mr Peres: Bid to head off United States criticism

Checkland accused in BBC2 dispute

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Mr Michael Checkland, director general of the BBC, was accused last night of inadvertently misleading corporation executives and the press in the increasingly bitter *Newsnight* programme scheduling dispute.

The allegations follow a public statement by Mr Checkland last week that Mr Alan Yentob, the recently appointed controller of BBC2, had been in favour of the controversial starting time of 10.30pm for the news and current affairs programme when he was interviewed for the job last year.

"The controller of BBC2, when he made his case to become controller of BBC2,

argued for a 10.30 fixed time", Mr Checkland said last night in a press conference attended by leading BBC officials last week.

However, sources close to Mr Bill Cotton, the managing director of BBC Television, who sat on the appointment board, alleged yesterday that Mr Yentob, like other candidates for the post, had agreed to the idea of a fixed time. But he is believed to have been in favour of a later starting time of 10.45pm.

A spokesman for Mr Checkland said last night that the director general was certain his interpretation of the board interview was correct.

Tokyo may buy UK warship

By David Watts in Tokyo and Michael Evans in London

The Japanese Government is considering the possibility of ordering a British-designed aircraft carrier in a big change in maritime defence policy, according to a report in Tokyo yesterday.

The purchase of an invincible class carrier equipped with Sea Harriers and helicopters would be a welcome boost to Britain's shipbuilding industry, which is being seriously affected by dwindling orders from the Ministry of Defence.

The potential switch in policy by the Japanese Government was hinted at yesterday in a report - said to be based on secret, official data - which appeared in the influential Japanese newspaper, *Yomiuri Shimbun*. The report may have been deliberately inspired by the Japanese

Government to test public reaction.

The purchase of an aircraft carrier, to add to the present Maritime Self-Defence Force of 15 submarines, 36 destroyers and 18 frigates, would represent a dramatic increase in naval firepower.

Yesterday, senior Ministry of Defence sources in London said there had been no approach from the Japanese Government.

However, government defence sales officials have been aware for some time of a potential new market in Japan, following the historic decision two years ago to increase military spending above the traditional 1 per cent of gross national product self imposed since the Japanese defeat in the Second World War.

One senior Whitehall source said: "There have been no hints to us from the Japanese, although, of course, we would be delighted if they were interested."

The Japanese newspaper report carries a photograph of the Royal Navy carrier *Invincible* in its front-page article.

Sources in London said that if a decision was taken to order an invincible class carrier, it would undoubtedly be built in Japan, which has a highly sophisticated shipbuilding industry. But Britain would benefit from a design and technology deal which could be worth millions.

Yesterday, Royal Navy sources said that there would be strong resistance if there was any suggestion of Japan purchasing an existing carrier.

Shah ready to launch new national newspaper

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Mr Eddie Shah plans to launch a new national newspaper at the end of this year, less than 18 months after he lost overall control of *Today*.

His planned downmarket six-day-a-week colour tabloid, to be called the *Post* or the *Globe*, will be aimed at the readership of *The Star*, whose circulation has fallen by around 400,000 to below the million mark in recent months.

Mr Lloyd Turner, dismissed as editor of *The Star* last September, has helped advise Mr Shah on the new project and is favourite to become editor.

The newspaper will be set up in the north-west, either in Warrington, where Mr Shah's successful *Messenger*

group of 26 titles are based, or Manchester. There will be about 200 staff, including 90 journalists.

Mr Shah believes the newspaper, with a 20p cover price, can break even with a circulation of 200,000. It will avoid using topless pin-ups.

The venture is expected to cost £5.5 million to launch, with Mr Shah providing £1.5 million and the rest coming from public subscription.

Mr Shah first hit the national headlines in 1983 during his prolonged and successful battle against the National Graphical Association over union recognition at Warrington. Later he moved to London to set up *Today*, and paved the way for a long-awaited Fleet Street revolution in newspaper technology.

In spite of an immense amount of public goodwill, *Today's* launch proved a disaster. Fuzzy pictures, a lack of identity and distribution difficulties ended with the Louth group taking overall control in 1986. The paper was taken over last summer by News International.

Mr Shah believes he has learnt crucial lessons from his experience in running *Today* which will stand him in good stead as he chances his arm again. In particular, he will not set up his own printing and distribution system but will contract out a lot of the work.

Mr Shah, who made a bid for *The Star* four months ago at the time of the paper's unsuccessful link up with *Sunday Sport*, points to the increasing number of disillusioned readers,

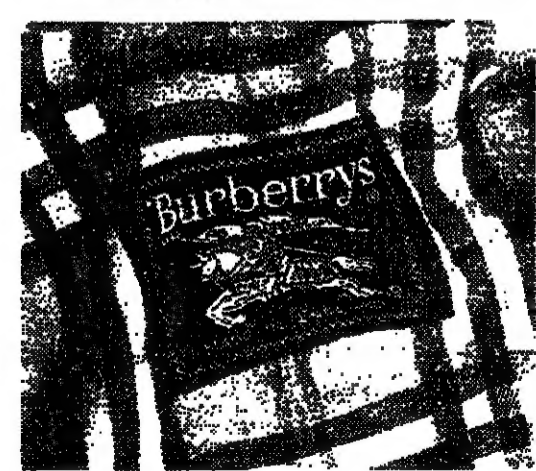
many of them young, who have deserted papers such as *The Star* in recent months.

He believes they are fed up with what he sees as the extravagances of some Fleet Street newspapers, and want to buy a tabloid based on entertainment and sport.

With the *Daily Mail* and *The Daily Telegraph* having made Manchester-based journalists redundant over the past 12 months, there is a sizeable pool of experienced editorial talent available to Mr Shah.

But as one of his close colleagues said last night: "Whether the British public is prepared to support a paper that says 'OK, we will be the Honest Joes of Fleet Street' is the 64,000 dollar question."

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Fashion designer
Bill Gibb dies

Bill Gibb, the fashion designer who dressed some of the most beautiful women in the world, died yesterday aged 44. He had suffered from cancer since last March and died in St Stephen's Hospital, London.

In his heyday his clothes were worn by leading names of the seventies including Twiggy, Bianca Jagger and Elizabeth Taylor. He favoured extravagant designs in clinging fabrics and animal skins but his knitwear brought him most acclaim.

His business crashed in 1978 with debts of £100,000, was rescued by a fine art firm but collapsed again in 1980, with debts of £400,000.

Mr Gibb recovered to create his own small collections for exclusive stores such as Harrods. But then his health failed. *Obituary, page 12*

Profiting
from love

Romance has brought Gretna Green record revenue of £500,000 this year and prompted plans to triple the number of marriages performed at the village just over the Scottish border.

Miss Pat Bryden, registrar, said the income for the village could be increased to almost £2 million if the single-story building she shares with a dentist and the rent collector is replaced by a larger office.

"Every couple who marries here spends at least £300 in the village and last year we had to turn away almost a thousand couples", she said.

Fish firm
may sue

A company is threatening to sue for damage to its reputation because the police advised people not to eat its brand of pilchards after a man died.

A post-mortem examination has shown that the man, aged 66 and from Perth, probably died from meningitis.

Mr Stephen Trickey, managing director of Glenryck (UK), of Henley-on-Thames, said yesterday that the police overreacted and had failed to contact him before issuing warnings. Police in Perth refused to comment.

Drive against racism

Council employees in Liverpool who persist in racist behaviour will be dismissed, the Labour leader of the city council, Councillor Keva Coombes, said yesterday.

Councillor Coombes, in a policy statement to Labour Party members, said: "Racism runs right the way through the authority. If some of these people cannot be persuaded to behave decently they will have to go."

He said he wanted to see more black people employed by the council. Barely 1.5 per cent of the council's 30,000 workforce was black compared with the city's 8 per cent black population.

Halpern
pay plea

Nearly 3,000 workers in Burton stores throughout the country have told Sir Ralph Halpern (right) that if he is worth £1.3 million a year for guiding the firm to success, they deserve £120 a week for their work.

They have sent a petition asking for more than the 7 per cent rise that the company sought to impose on them before Christmas. All those who have signed it, nearly all of the full-time staff, work in the menswear division.



Tube arson denial

London Regional Transport denied last night that its report into the King's Cross fire on November 18 would conclude that the blaze, which killed 31 people, was arson.

It would make a submission to the public inquiry into the disaster, but would not offer a definite conclusion. A spokeswoman said: "We are not confirming or ruling out anything. The evidence has to be submitted and examined properly."

A report in *The Mail On Sunday* said London Regional Transport would conclude the fire was arson, saying someone was seen emerging from below the escalator where the blaze started.

Chess players
settle for
draws again

By Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

All four games were drawn in round five of the Foreign and Colonial Tournament at Hastings.

Joel Benjamin, the American champion, offered strong resistance to Jonathan Speelman and drew after 30 moves.

Bent Larsen, Denmark, strove to increase his lead but John Nunn defended well and never looked in danger.

Lev Psakhis, the Russian grandmaster, gave little sign of overcoming Murray Chandler and the draw was agreed after only 16 moves.

Nigel Short gained some advantage in the last game and Nigel Davies seemed in danger of being slowly crushed. The game finally came down to a knight and pawns ending and Short supporters began to shout victory but Davies found a neat resource which held the draw at move 53. Totals are: Larsen 3½ points, Benjamin and Short 3, Nunn, Psakhis and Speelman 2½, Chandler and Davies 1½.

Britain's image as a nation of strikers 'a myth'

By John Spicer
Employment Affairs Correspondent

Britain's image as a strike-prone nation is a myth, with industrial stoppages far greater in many other countries, including the United States, Canada and Italy, according to researchers.

At the same time, the Japanese, who have settled only recently to a period of harmonious industrial relations and high productivity, have to put in more hours than Britons to buy a Japanese colour television set.

Dr Greg Bamber, of Durham University Business School, and Professor Russell Lansbury, of Sydney University, authors of the study, say Japan's emergence as an apparent model of harmonious industrial relations and high productivity has happened only since the 1973 oil crisis. Japan was torn by violent labour disputes after the Second World War.

Dr Bamber said yesterday that study results show

By Sarah Thompson
Education Reporter

Cambridge University is in the next fortnight expected to commission a detailed review of its administration and management.

The decision will be a victory for 200 dons who signed a petition at the end of November calling for radical changes in the university government, which has remained unaltered for more than sixty years and in some aspects for three centuries.

Leading the petition was Professor Sir Alan Cook, the Master of Selwyn College, who was knighted in the New Year Honours List. He said: "There

is a feeling that Oxford is doing better."

But university authorities, while tacitly backing the proposed review by a committee which is expected to be announced by the Council of Senate, resist any suggestion that Cambridge is less efficient than Oxford — or that it is working less to raise funds.

Mr Geoffrey Skelsey, the Cambridge University registrar, said the university would launch a large-scale fund raising effort next year in competition with Oxford's highly publicized £200 million appeal.

Mr Skelsey yesterday defended Cambridge. He said: "Oxford's financial problems

are famous. For example, they have had to freeze more than 200 academic posts whereas we have virtually no frozen posts."

He added that Cambridge was last month chosen as the home of the National Superconductivity Research Centre, the first university research centre to be devoted to excellence in a specific area. "The fact that we were chosen suggests that the place is not, after all, a complete shambles", Mr Skelsey said.

Oxford underwent big reforms after a review by Lord Franks in 1966. But in Cambridge a similar review was not acted on and power is still effectively shared by three

bodies: the Council of Senate (elected by Regent House, a body of 3,000 academics), the General Board of Faculties, which oversees academic matters, and the Financial Board.

The proposed review will probably recommend streamlining the administration "so that it is clear that one of these bodies is in charge", Mr Skelsey said. "As it is now there is an enormous amount of handing business back and forth."

The review is also expected to recommend that the vice-chancellor holds office for three or four years instead of the current two-year stretch. Oxford made that change 10 years ago.

"We need to have the university represented by someone who has long enough to get involved in the issues", Mr Skelsey said. Since the vice-chancellor is chosen from among the college heads, who have obligations to their own colleges, neither Oxford nor Cambridge is likely to move to open-ended vice-chancellorships as are held at other non-collegiate universities.

The reform issue was hotly debated by dons in Regent House on December 15, with opinion evenly divided. At its first meeting this term, the Council of Senate merely has to take the debate into account.

Many dons agree with the

view expressed yesterday by Mr Denis Mack Smith, the historian and Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, whose career has spanned both universities. "There is no doubt that Cambridge is in trouble", he said.

"Even as someone not directly concerned with administration I have a vague impression that Oxford is more efficient. At Cambridge, taking quick decisions is almost impossible."

"It has a wonderful medieval system — but every decision at Cambridge seems to have to go through so many different bodies and with fund raising becoming so important quick decisions are vital."

Alliance is
falling apart
at seams,
claims Owen

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Dr David Owen lambasted the proposed merged Alliance party yesterday and said it was already coming apart at the seams.

The Liberals, in whatever guise they appeared, were not a credible governing force and only the independent SDP he was planning would provide a credible opposition to the Conservatives, he said.

Launching his most fierce criticism yet of his former colleagues, Dr Owen also sketched out a manifesto for his breakaway party and claimed it would be the only opposition grouping that voters could trust not to undo the "undoubted achievements" of Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

He said that by prematurely forging links with the Liberals so soon after his 1981 launch, the SDP had "neutered" its appeal to the electorate.

Dr Owen's criticism in a Sunday newspaper drew an immediate rebuke from Mr Alan Beith, the deputy leader of the Liberal Party. He said the former leader of the SDP was "bidding for membership" by seeking to detach some of those attracted to the proposed merged party.

His claim to the mantle of social democracy was "ridiculous" because a ballot of SDP members had produced a majority in favour of seeking a union.

Meanwhile, the latest opinion poll underlined the scale of the task facing Dr Owen as he seeks to establish his new party as a credible political force.

Only three people in 1,000 say they would vote for a breakaway SDP led by him, according to a survey conducted by *Times Newspapers*.

The picture contrasts

strongly with an encouraging message for Dr David Steel.

Two thirds of Alliance supporters want him to stay on as Liberal leader and the same number believe he should lead the proposed merged party.

Mr Steel, who is on a tour of East Africa, has said that he will decide later this month whether he intends to carry on as leader of his party.

The latest figures from Market & Opinion Research International (MORI) are bound to increase the pressure on Mr Steel to remain. He has already indicated he retains his appetite for the fray.

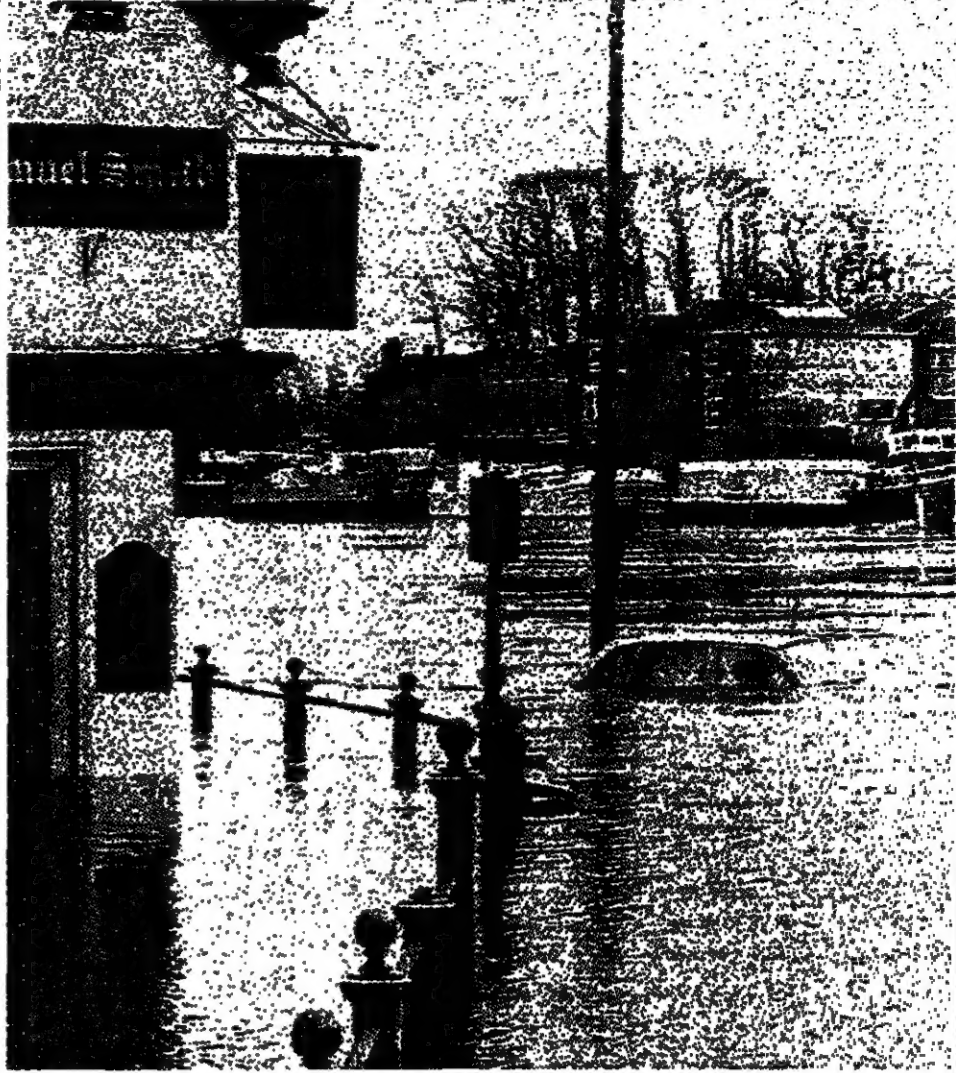
The poll does contain comfort for Dr Owen for 4 per cent said they would support an attempt to keep the SDP banner flying after a merger.

Overall, MORI puts the Alliance up 4 points at 15 per cent, with Conservatives and Labour down two points at 48 per cent and 36 per cent respectively.

MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,072 adults aged 18 and over in 72 constituency sampling points on December 29 and 30, 1987.

The figures suggest that Dr Owen and his 15,000 followers in the Campaign for Social Democracy, the springboard for a reborn SDP, are in danger of political eclipse.

As the SDP prepares for its merger conference in Sheffield at the end of the month, Dr Owen will spearhead a concerted effort to recapture public support and win SDP members to his side. With Mr John Cartwright and Mrs Rosie Barnes, the two anti-merger SDP MPs, he will be addressing public meetings across the country.



A car abandoned in York yesterday after the river Ouse rose 13 ft and burst its banks

Climber dies on blizzard isle

Continued from page 1

Country and Wales are likely to be battered by gales.

Some of the fiercest winds were recorded on Merseyside with gusts up to 70 mph. A 19-year-old woman was taken to hospital with head and back injuries after a tree crashed down on her car.

In Cornwall and Wales several roads were blocked. The Severn-Trent Water Authority issued flood warnings from the Welsh border to Hereford. In York, the river Ouse was 13 ft above its normal level with several riverside roads and car parks being submerged.

An elderly man died in Hampshire when his car overturned in blinding rain at Longparish, near Andover. Two other drivers died near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and

in High Street, Buckingham, in weekend crashes caused by the gales.

Merchant ships and travellers took shelter after warnings were issued along the South Coast of force 11 winds. A windsurfer had to be towed to safety by the Royal Navy near Chichester harbour after setting out in mountainous seas.

An attempt on the British altitude record for women balloonists had to be postponed as more than 100 enthusiasts gathered at a rally in Berkshire, some of the crews travelling from Australia, Japan and the United States.

Oban Coastguard Charles Charlton, who coordinated rescue of the Rhum rescue described the conditions on the snowbound island as "absolutely terrible" during the

attempt to save Mr Leaver and then to bring his body down.

The dental student, an experienced climber was with four colleagues when he fell on the mountain on Saturday afternoon, breaking several bones.

Two colleagues fought their way through the blizzard to the nearby village of Kinloch to raise the alarm while the other two stayed with him.

A team of four volunteer coastguards on the island immediately set out to find him as an RAF Sea King helicopter was scrambled from RAF Lossiemouth on the Eastern side of Scotland.

That helicopter began to ice up in the atrocious conditions as it flew towards the scene and had to turn back.

Labour's
outray on
urban aid
posters

By David Sapsford

Labour authorities must display government posters being produced in Conservative Party colours or be denied inner city grants worth hundreds of millions of pounds, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Department of the Environment is writing into contracts with 57 councils, 55 of them Labour controlled, that they must display the posters or face losing the money.

Mr David Blunkett, chairman of Labour's local government committee, described the policy as ludicrous.

More than half a billion pounds of the department's aid is set aside under the Urban Programme this year. Mr David Trippier, Under Secretary of State, has decided that the councils getting the cash must credit the Government.

The choice of Tory colours for the posters was "purely coincidental", a department spokesman said yesterday.

"We decided to change from the green logo to a blue one for the Urban Programme during 1987. It is only fair and reasonable that, when the Government is providing up to 75 per cent of the money for a specific project that we should ask this contribution to be acknowledged on a poster on a building site."

Mr Trippier elected to get tough with the councils last year because he believes that many Labour councils have been given government finance under the Urban Programme and then criticized Whitehall for doing nothing to help inner cities.

Mr Blunkett, former leader of Sheffield council, said: "The best way to tackle this blatant piece of propaganda is to ridicule it by having sites plastered with posters."

"I also imagine that, given the Government's record on local government financing, some people in inner city areas might have some telling graffiti to add to the bottom of the government advertising", he said.

Poorest families are
becoming worse off

Britain's poor are becoming poorer, both in real and relative terms, says a report published today by the Family Policy Studies Centre.

The report was based on official figures used by the Government to defend its record on wealth and poverty. The Government says almost everyone is better off, even if inequalities have been growing as the real improve their position faster.

However, says the centre, many families, especially one-parent families, have become worse off in real terms.

Jo Ralls, a research officer, who wrote the study, analysed statistics on wealth from 1979 to 1985. She says her analysis, unlike others supporting government policies, is based on family types, not income groups.

And she says even allowing for social security benefits and tax allowances, the income of the poorest 20 per cent has dropped by 6 per cent, and the income of the richest 20 per

cent has increased by 9 per cent.

The steepest decline in wealth is among single-parent families, whose average income between 1979 and 1985 fell by 11 per cent.

Mr Malcolm Wicks, the director of the centre, which is partly funded by the Department of Health and Social Security, said the report showed the picture for poorer and single-parent families was "far more gloomy than realized."

Mr Robin Cook, Labour's social services spokesman, said: "Since unemployment has doubled under the present Government, it is just not credible for it to claim everybody is better off."

He added that the picture for families on low incomes would get "even bleaker" in April when changes in the social security system would mean "a lower level of entitlement for most people currently on benefit."

TUC out to attract young

By Roland Radd

Moves aimed at making the trade union movement more effective in reaching young people are being organized by the TUC special review body.

Union members frequently go into schools to talk to fifth or sixth form pupils. However, in a report in the latest issue of the *TUC Bulletin*, members are warned that "you can very quickly find that rambling on about national executive committees and branch resolutions is guaranteed to invite barely disguised yawns and blank stares."

Recent surveys have shown that many pupils are ignorant about trade unions and the TUC, and have a negative attitude towards joining when they become employed.

However, the figures show

that the TUC's work in "active-learning" sessions with teachers in the classroom have reached only one school in 14.

Union leaders realize that they must attract more young people to halt a continuing membership decline. But they are aware that it would be counter-productive for any union to attempt actively to recruit pupils.

The special review body recommends:

- Allocating specific responsibility for schools to officials at national and local levels;
- Reprinting the TUC publication, *Letting about Trade Unions*, and new briefings on school sessions;
- A TUC video film, for use in

schools, dealing with everyday issues.

The report says: "It is clearly no longer enough just to expect the majority of school leavers to favour the joining of trade unions." The overall aim of the TUC work at schools should be to ensure that young people are "at least open-minded about trade unions when they start work."

Unions were urged yesterday to give backing to the TUC Aid payroll-deduction scheme in support of children in developing countries.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, writing in the *TUC Bulletin*, said 250,000 children had died in developing countries every week last year.

Call to check miners' votes

By Our Employment Affairs Correspondent

NUM officials are being called upon to be particularly vigilant during the run up to the election of their president on January 22 to ensure extra printed ballot papers do not go astray.

More than 10,000 extra papers are expected to be sent out to branches for distribution in time for the pit-head ballot since membership is based on figures audited in April last year.

Total membership of the union was then near 100,000, but British Coal says it has since fallen to fewer than 90,000.

Last night Mr John Walsh, the only candidate opposing Mr Arthur Scargill, dismissed fears of the possibility of ballot-rigging. He said the

system had existed for many years and he had every confidence in the honesty of NUM branch officials.

"I am not going to get into speculation that extra ballot papers might fall into the wrong hands. The NUM system of electing senior officials has been tried and tested. The number of members is established each year during the spring audit. This is not an issue that concerns me at all," he said.

The Electoral Reform Society will count the votes and cross-check them with returns from the NUM's 18 areas.

Both society and British Coal officials say the NUM's election system is virtually fool-proof.

Yesterday, both candidates took their campaigns to the Leicestershire coalfield, which has backed Mr Walsh in the election. But Mr Jack Jones, the area's moderate leader, bitterly attacked Mr Scargill for arriving to address miners without an official invitation.

He accused him of using Communists and redundant miners to get an invitation to speak at a meeting chaired by Leicestershire's new Labour MP, Mr Keith Vaz.

Reading The Times overseas: London 50p; Edinburgh 60p; Dublin 60p; Cardiff 60p; Glasgow 60p; Manchester 60p; Newcastle 60p; Nottingham 60p; Oxford 60p; Plymouth 60p; Portsmouth 60p; Reading 60p; Southampton 60p; Swansea 60p; Tyneside 60p; Wakefield 60p; Wolverhampton 60p.

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FLY THE MAGIC HORSE

Big rise in concern over standards of health service care

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Public concern at standards of health care have risen dramatically since last October, according to the latest MORI opinion poll for Times Newspapers.

At the same time, the Government and the medical profession clashed again over the National Health Service, after Dr John Marks, chairman of the council of the British Medical Association, said hospital services were being "cut to the bone" and that family doctor services were also under threat from new cash limits.

The survey, conducted by MORI & Opinion Research International (MORI), showed a significant 30-point jump in the importance of the health issue in the past three months. Mr Robert Worcester, MORI's managing director, said it was the biggest increase in a social factor that he could recall.

According to the survey of 1,072 adults, taken last month, 52 per cent rated the health service as the most important problem facing Britain, 20 points up on November and only 5 per cent less than those citing unemployment.

Dr Marks said on BBC Radio that government ministers were refusing to face the fact of a crisis in the health service and were relying on Mrs Margaret Thatcher's "tired litany of statistics".

He said: "We spend less on health care than any other country in Europe. We spend 6 per cent of gross national product. France spends 8.5 per cent, Germany 9.5 per cent and Switzerland 7.4 per cent."

"In money terms we spend the equivalent of 493 dollars per head, whereas Switzerland spends 1,111 dollars per head and West Germany 1,000 dollars per head. We are at the bottom of the league."

However, Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, said on the same programme that Dr Marks's figures failed to take into account the greater contribution of the private sector in other countries to total health spending.

This made a "big difference", accounting for 1.6 per cent of GNP in Germany and

A consultant surgeon who resigned his health authority seat when all non-urgent surgery was cancelled at Maidstone General Hospital, Kent, because of £1 million overspending, praised the hospital yesterday after it won a design award from the Royal Institute of Architects.

Mr Peter Fenn said: "It is a well designed hospital, and one of the nicest I have ever worked in, but there simply is not the money available to use it."

"The hospital is still on a number alert, which means there is no non-urgent surgery going on thanks to the health authority cutting spending to avoid the one million pound overspend."

Design awards, page 13.

27 per cent in France, and went a long way towards closing the gap.

He said that a fundamental review of health service funding had been instituted by the Prime Minister, although she had ruled out any changes before the next general election.

Mr Newton indicated again that in the long-term, in addition to obtaining better value for money, ministers wanted to see the private sector playing a bigger role. "But it would certainly be

foolish not to recognize that people's willingness to spend over and above what is taken from them as taxpayers can and does make an important contribution.

"If there are ways of increasing that contribution and using it, as we have started to do by a partnership between the private sector and the public sector, to the benefit of NHS patients, it's sensible to try to achieve that", he said.

Dr Marks called for a "massive" short-term cash injection and a long-term commitment from the Government to give the health service a guaranteed and proper share of national spending.

● Vital sections of the NHS will "simply fall apart during 1988" for lack of funds, according to a report published today by the Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales.

The report, *Health Authorities in Crisis*, says that although funding for the NHS has increased by 35 per cent in the past five years, it has barely been enough to keep up with inflation.

At the same time, health authorities have faced substantial increases in demand and more than 80 per cent are facing a budget deficit in the current financial year, the report says.

It says: "Many health authorities are in crisis. Unless there is action now, some parts of the NHS, already on the brink of collapse, will simply fall apart during 1988."

Mid-Year Budget Cuts: Health Authorities in Crisis (Association of Community Health Councils for England, Wales, Nurses Home, Langdon Close, Wren Street, London WC1X 2HD; £2 inc p&p).

Sir Robin and sons weather the storms



Off duty: Sir Robin Day, the radio and television broadcaster, enjoying his time with his two sons, Alexander, aged 14, and Daniel, aged 12. They have been at school in Perth, Australia, for two years, and have come to

England for their Christmas holidays, during which they stayed at Sir Robin's cottage near Bridport, on the Dorset coast. Sir Robin, aged 65, and his sons braved the stormy weather and took a brisk walk by the sea. Sir

Robin said: "I just love walking, and keeping fit. Some of the walks in this area are fabulous, particularly the National Trust coastal walks". On new year plans, Sir Robin added: "I don't visualize stopping or changing

my work in television. I'll just carry on for as long as I have something useful to do". *Question Time*, with Sir Robin as chairman, returns on Thursday. (Report and photograph: Stephen Markeson)

Burglary fire kills woman, 81

By Howard Foster

A woman aged 81 died after burgling herself inside her bedroom when burglars raided her house and then set it alight.

The body of Mrs Edna Roberts was found lying against the bedroom door of her home in King Street, Brynmawr, Gwent, on Saturday. She had died from smoke inhalation some time after 5pm on New Year's Eve and had been trying to attract the attention of neighbours.

More than 50 police officers were involved yesterday in a murder investigation, but no clue to the identity of her assailants was found.

Det Chief Supt Mark Walters, head of Gwent CID, who is leading the hunt, said: "I just cannot find words to describe the person or persons responsible for this. It was a horrible thing to do to an old lady. She must have been a very frightened woman. She died a terrible death."

There were signs of a forced entry at the home. The police believe that the intruder or intruders were looking for money when Mrs Roberts, a widow, disturbed them. Fires had been started in several places but the incident was not reported until friends tried unsuccessfully to contact her.

Mrs Roberts's son, Michael, aged 48, said yesterday: "I just cannot imagine how a person could do this kind of thing. It is beyond me."

The rest of her family, including her son, Edward, an atomic scientist, and a daughter, who lives in Dubai, have been informed.

Mrs Roberts, a former school teacher, once offered private tuition to local children. They are among those being questioned by the police.

Three sisters, including twins aged four, died yesterday in a fire at their home at Leigh, Greater Manchester.

Lindsay, Liza and Adele Molyneux died in the living room of their home in Fell Street. Their parents were treated for smoke inhalation and shock.

University policies attacked

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

A distinguished academic has strongly attacked the Government's plans for higher education in a pamphlet published today by the Centre for Policy Studies, the right-wing think-tank.

Professor Elie Kedourie, Professor of Politics at the London School of Economics, says: "It is not in the public interest, nor in the interests of universities and their inmates, that they should be tied to, and dragged behind, the chariot-wheels of the Government."

The fact that one of the Prime Minister's favourite institutions, the Centre for Policy Studies, asked Professor Kedourie to write the pamphlet, *Diamonds into Glass*, indicates the anger felt by the right at the proposals put forward for universities in Mr Kenneth Baker's Education Reform Bill now progressing through Parliament.

Professor Kedourie attacks the Government's plans to

impose "contracts" on universities promising specific services in return for taxpayers' money, and the Advisory Board to the Research Councils' proposals for a three-tier system of universities restricting top research to an elite group.

He suggests that student loans have been avoided by successive governments (including the present one) not for fear of hardship to students but because they could loosen the bureaucratic grip on university funding.

He argues that the "contracts" between a University Funding Council controlled by the Secretary of State and the institutions themselves will result in "a creeping rigidification of teaching and research".

"Why it should be thought right and necessary for universities to be submitted to a regime akin to that of a command economy is quite obscure", Professor Kedourie

says. He points out that the proposed "contracts" are not legal ones as the universities will not be able to reject them.

The three-tier university system will mean "type-casting, an arbitrary judgement based on some idea of a university's past performance" from which institutions cannot escape. "There can be no assurance that the excellent will remain excellent, or that the last shall not, some time, become the first", Professor Kedourie says.

He sees the Government's plans as another step in the past two decades of growth in state regulation of higher education. "Also an increasing politicization, since university affairs would be bound up with who knows what irrelevant considerations and calculations made within the Sublime Porte at Whitehall".

Diamonds into Glass (Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, London SW1E 6PL; £3.90).

Fewer US tourists expected

Fewer American tourists are expected to visit London this year because of the weakness of the dollar, the London Tourist Board said yesterday.

But if the growth in the western European and Far East markets, particularly Japan, is sustained, 1988 could still be a good year. Nevertheless, the board said London would have to stay competitive.

Last year overseas visitors to London spent a record amount, with nearly nine million tourists passing through.

Two years ago, before the terrorist airport attacks and the Libyan bombing, Americans accounted for 34 per cent of visitors compared with 23 per cent now. More than half of last year's tourists were from Europe.

Riot charges

Five youths have been charged with public order offences after the New Year's Day disturbance in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, in which 100 black youths battled with white skinheads, a shop was looted and a fire-bomb thrown into a public house.

Baby attempt

Mrs Susan Halton, mother of the septuplets who died in August, has begun a new course of fertility drugs after assurances by doctors at Oxford Street Maternity Hospital, Liverpool, that a pregnancy would be monitored to ensure no more than three children.

Stab girl safe

A girl aged 11, who was stabbed in the chest last Friday, returned to her home at Sway, Hampshire, on Saturday. The police said they had received hundreds of calls in the search for a car driver who stabbed Abigail Wright after asking her for directions.

Brighter dock

Grisby's 132-year-old fish docks are to have a £100,000 refurbishment including a vast mural at the entrance to improve the first sight of the Humberside harbour for visiting travellers. Buildings will be painted and less attractive features camouflaged.

Extra pit jobs

The number of miners at Daw Mill colliery, Warwickshire, staffed by members of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, is to rise from 1,500 to 1,700, with a production target of 50,000 tonnes a week.

Knife murder

Police are investigating the murder of Mr Barrie St Germain, aged 33, a homosexual rights organizer and arts administrator, who was killed in a knife attack at his flat in Kensington, west London.

Hurd departs

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, left Heathrow Airport yesterday on a week-long visit to Tunisia and Morocco for talks with interior and foreign ministers on drugs, terrorism and international crime.

Cows perish

Fifteen cows died in a fire which gutted a barn, causing damage estimated at £21,000, at Field Barn Farm, Ardington, near Wantage, Oxfordshire, yesterday.

Employers 'will face Aids fight'

By Thomson Practice Science Correspondent

The Aids epidemic will pose huge problems for employers and their workforces in the next decade, according to legal experts.

Sufferers of the disease who are dismissed because of their condition will find it almost impossible to get another job, and new laws will be necessary to protect them, the authors of a new book, *Aids and Employment Law*, say.

Up to 40,000 new cases of the disease might occur annually by the end of 1995, making Aids the second most common cause of death after heart disease, they add.

"Such a burden of ill health and premature death in mostly young people would have consequences far beyond the health care industry. The life-blood of our wealth-producing industries would be damaged", the authors, Chris Southern and Gillian Howard, say. Many sufferers facing dismissal, including those symptomless, carrying the Aids virus and those in so-called "high risk groups" will seek protection from the courts and industrial tribunals.

Employers who believe it will be easy to "bribe" Aids virus carriers to leave work with offers of severance payments should act with caution, the authors say.

Aids and Employment Law (Financial Training Publications Ltd, London; £14.95).

Cure for backache near, say doctors

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

An effective treatment for sufferers of chronic backache, a complaint responsible for more than 19 million lost working days a year, is close at hand, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council says.

Although the council is encouraged by recent advances in research, it is also publishing a pamphlet this week, *Backache and Disc Disorders*, advising people how to help themselves.

The cause for optimism comes from the trials of a drug that dissolves particles of fibrin, a protein which repairs wounds and damaged tissue, from the areas of the back where they cause pain.

Left alone, fibrin becomes an irritant causing scarring and inflammation of tissues that lead to backache. The discovery that the breakdown of fibrin is impaired in people suffering from chronic backache was made by a team working with Professor Malcolm Jayson at the Rheumatic Diseases Centre at Hope Hospital, near Manchester.

Professor Jayson discovered that most of the patients had a defect of an enzyme in their blood which stops deposits of fibrin being cleared away normally. He also suggests that smoking can cause the enzyme defect.

Investigations at Hope Hospital have also shown that tiny fibres of material from surgical swabs remaining in patients who have undergone surgery can lead to persistent back pain. The pieces are so

small they can be seen only under a microscope.

The crucial breakthrough comes from the use of a steroid preparation called stanozolol, which, in a trial over the past year, has improved the condition of seven out of eight people in whom fibrin deposits were diagnosed.

The improvement is linked to the way these patients remove excess fibrin, once repairs are made. Unwanted fibrin is normally broken down by an enzyme in the blood called plasmin.

During the research Dr Judith Hoyland has found that fibrous tissue, or fibrin deposits, form around the spine if the blood flow in the area is poor or if the nerves are damaged. The accumulation of fibrin can be caused by an slightest injury to one of the discs of soft cartilage that separate the vertebrae in the spine. The steroid treatment appears to stimulate the plasmin that is there to work more effectively in breaking down fibrin.

A total of 13 patients were involved in the trial. Five did not complete the treatment because of side effects of the drug, which is an anabolic steroid. The studies are being extended to a group of 60 patients.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council estimates that back pain and disc complaints cost £220 million a year in lost working days.

Computer design may increase car dangers

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Cars designed by computer may be considerably more dangerous than those designed by conventional techniques, according to a leading transport scientist at Birmingham University.

Dr Murray Mackay, of the university's accident research unit, says that computer-aided techniques used by the leading manufacturers enable cars to be so finely tuned that passengers involved in a collision unplanned by the designers can suffer serious injury.

"Crashes happen at all types of speeds, from all sorts of directions, into all sorts of structures. If the design process is so focused on a limited number of legal requirements which it only just meets, then the actual protection provided on the road may not be satisfactory. The very efficiencies of the design process may well be having a negative effect", Dr Mackay says.

He says that many drivers are exposed to serious injury from the steering wheel in a frontal crash at any speed of about 20mph or more. Dr Mackay says that manufacturers also need to think

much harder about the design of the exterior of cars to protect pedestrians.

The changes in car design do not have to be radical, he adds, and says that the mean speed at which accidents happen in which pedestrians have to be admitted to hospital is only 22mph.

However, lowering repair costs, rather than accident rates, has been the prime criterion of much car design, Dr Mackay says.

"It has resulted in bumpers which are essentially rigid beams set precisely at adult knee height so that they cause the maximum possible disabling joint damage at the lowest possible speed."

Bio-mechanical studies have shown that lowering bumper heights, and using materials that absorb energy in an impact with legs, hips and head, can produce safety benefits comparable with those achieved by the mandatory wearing of seat-belts.

The sluggishness of the law-making process also means that many of the present legal requirements lag far behind the capabilities of the industry, Dr Mackay says.

M-way scheme under the Thames

An eight-lane motorway underneath the river Thames and a futuristic scheme to turn the M25 around London into a double-deck highway are among proposals to take Britain's roads into the twenty-first century.

The plans by Costain Group, the British construction and mining company, are intended to follow the opening of the Channel tunnel in the mid-1990s. A third development would involve creation of a high-speed rail network across south-east England.

Mr Les Hunt, of the Costain Group, said the proposals were at an early exploratory stage but the schemes had already met with government encouragement.

Costain is seeking support from financial institutions for the schemes which would cost about £7 billion.

The tunnel under the Thames would carry eight road lanes for 16 miles from the M4 at Chiswick, west London, to Blackwall and the east London docks, but it would also be big enough to accommodate a rail line.

Costain, which has a stake in the consortium construct-

ing the Channel tunnel, also wants to build a second road deck about 50ft high above the existing 115 miles of the M25. But the most ambitious plan in financial terms would probably be a high-speed rail network across the South-east linking Huntingdon, Cambridge, and Reading, Berkshire, with the Continent via a London terminal and the Channel tunnel. This project alone would cost £3 billion.

Motorway roadworks until next Monday.

London and the South-East

M4 London: Lane closures on eastbound carriageway between jns 1 and 3 (Cranford/Chiswick) between 9pm and 5am on Monday and Tuesday nights.

M1 Essex: Off-peak lane closures and speed restrictions at jn 8 (Bishop's Cleeve).

Contrailow between jns 8 and 10 (Duxford). Some carriageway closures at weekend with signed diversions.

M275 Hampshire: Flyover construction continues between M27 and Rudmore roundabout.

M2 Kent: Contrailow at jn 4 (Gillingham).

Midlands

M5 Hereford/Worcester: Lane closures in both directions between jns 5 and 6 (Bromsgrove/Worcester North). Northbound entry slip at jn 6 closed. Overnight carriageway closures with signed diversions.

M5 West Midlands: Lane closures between jns 1 and 2 (West Bromwich/Birmingham West). Southbound entry slip at jn 1 closed. Northbound entry slip at jn 2 closed.

North

M62 West Yorkshire: Contrailow between jns 25 and 26 (A604 Brighouse/M606 Bradford). M63 Greater Manchester: Restrictions for widening of Barton Bridge. Peak hour congestion at Portwood roundabout at Stockport. Road width reduced to two lanes.

A1(M) South Yorkshire: Contrailow and slip road closures from January 7 between A635 interchange, Mair, and A638 interchange, Redhouse.

Wales and West

M4 Gwent: Lane restrictions between jns 23 and 24 (Magor/A48).

Road accident toll down in drink blitz

Police have released final figures for drink-driving and road accidents over the Christmas period, statistics which they say show their holiday crackdown paid dividends.

Figures for the 42 forces in England and Wales show that positive breath tests for the period from December 19 to January 1 dropped from 4,251 in 1986 to 4,048 in 1987. Road accidents involving injury and death were down from 4,719 to 3,892.

However, in some areas the figures were up. On Humberside there were 95 positive breath tests compared with 91 in 1986, and 97 accidents involving injury, compared with 77 in 1986.

In contrast, North Wales police said the number of positive breath tests was down by 18 per cent.

Positive breath test results and accidents with injury in 1987 were down in areas including Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northamptonshire, and South Yorkshire, compared with 1986. Figures for the Metropolitan Police and final results from Northumbria are expected next week.

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Inflexible taxation rules on staff rewards deter directors

Firms drop plans for profit-related pay

By Roland Ridd
Most British firms have failed to introduce profit-related pay because Inland Revenue strictures are too narrow and complicated, Incomes Data Services reports.

The independent research group adds that those companies intending to introduce the scheme do so for the tax benefit and not for the reasons the Government would like, namely to make pay and/or employment more flexible.

At the end of October only 146 companies had registered profit-related pay schemes with the Inland Revenue after 26,000 requests for copies of

the guidelines. Researchers were in contact with 50 companies which previously had expressed strong interest in introducing the scheme and found that only two had registered such arrangements by last month.

Several intend to introduce profit related pay this year but a large number have postponed their plans indefinitely.

Many companies are waiting to see if the scheme becomes more flexible or attractive. Businesses which had dropped plans included Boots, British Airways, T I Desford and the TSB.

Among companies which

had difficulties with the scheme, one objection was that pure profit could be a poor indicator of a company's performance and of employees' efforts.

Employee share schemes created greater and more long-term employee identification with the company than profit related pay.

The complexity of the scheme and the costs and time to set it up appeared to outweigh the benefits to employees, particularly when companies employed many low-paid workers.

T I Desford Tubes abandoned its proposals because

the Inland Revenue insisted that no account could be taken of performance issues other than profit, such as sales or capital employed.

The researchers state: "A number of companies with existing profit sharing schemes object to the loss of the discretion they currently enjoy when determining the amount of profit to make available for distribution."

● A Leicester firm, True Engineers Ltd, is offering a company car, London rates of pay, 24 days' paid holiday and a company pension scheme to attract skilled auto-setters from Coventry.

West Midlands Manpower Services Commission reports that up to one in seven manufacturing companies in the region is being hampered by lack of skilled workers — particularly engineers.

The commission believes that is a legacy of the cost-cutting in the early years of the recession when apprentices were regarded "as an expendable luxury".

The report states: "This has resulted in the pool of skilled labour getting smaller and smaller, and steps are now being taken by many firms to expand in-house training.

Test engineers, skilled on-

crators, electrical and electronic engineers, qualified welders and machine tool designers are in high demand.

There is a rapid rise in demand for professional engineers, particularly from the office and data processing equipment industries.

The problem has been aggravated because "current graduates are being attracted to other sectors to which their degree is irrelevant". The financial services sector recruits many science and engineering graduates each year.

Incomes Data Services Report 512 (193 St John Street, London EC1V 4LS; by subscription).

WHITEHALL BRIEF

by David Walker

A minister's load is nothing new



Harold Macmillan: advice on dangers of overworking.

"I am concerned at the burden of work which rests on ministers and particularly on senior ministers having charge of departments. Many of my colleagues are under a strain which represents a real threat to efficiency and, in the long run, to health."

It could have been written by any of the post-war prime ministers. Attlee and Eden, possibly also Harold Wilson, could have said it about themselves. Even Margaret Thatcher knows by now the physical cost of office to such ministers as Lord Havers and Whitelaw, and to Mr John Moore.

The minute was in fact written by Harold Macmillan in 1957, which leaves no doubt that the problem of "overload" of the machinery of government is nothing new nor that successive prime ministers had plenty of warning that ministers of the crown are impossibly overburdened.

Whitehall, ultimately, is only as efficient and effective as the politicians at its head, yet ministers have consistently failed to tackle their own role.

Macmillan's remedy for the strains among his secretaries of state are as pertinent now as then. It is disclosed in the form of two minutes, in March and November, that can be read in the newly-opened 1957 Cabinet archive at the Public Record Office.

Cabinet ministers need, Macmillan said, both to devote responsibility downwards, notably by making more extensive use of junior ministers, and to some of the more obvious pleasures of ministerial life, such as parties.

"I believe that ministers are being asked to devote too much of their time to small, though politically difficult, points of administration and are, in consequence, unable to give enough thought to the larger issues of policy and to the problems of presentation which are their special responsibility."

How ageless that is. The word — presentation — has lost none of its currency in 30 years. Mrs Thatcher's minutes, when and if they

are published a generation hence, will ring with it.

Sir Robin Butler, newly knighted Cabinet Secretary, may find the following worth copying for some future prime ministerial edict to colleagues (although she can hardly escape blame, given the number of Cabinet committees she has recently created).

"We all deplore the amount of time we have to devote to meetings of the Cabinet and its committees." So?

● Matters falling wholly within the jurisdiction of a single minister often need not be brought up for collective discussion at all.

● A minister should not submit a question to the Cabinet or a Cabinet committee merely because it concerns one or more other ministers.

This may seem an easier course than to arrange a meeting with those directly concerned; but unless the collective responsibility of the Government is involved, it wastes the time of the other members.

● Finally, brevity, in documents and in discussion, can make the biggest single contribution to the expeditious dispatch of public business.

Macmillan's rather shrewish injunctions did not end there. "We should try to establish new conventions which will reduce the time spent by ministers in the routine social functions, and in meeting foreign visitors at airports."

"Ministers could exercise a finer discretion in accepting invitations to public functions."

Charities may block EEC free food plan

By John Young

Pensioners and other low income groups in Britain are unlikely to benefit from an EEC scheme to give away beef and butter from surplus stores, because charities are unwilling to implement it.

Officially Britain is still considering its position, but Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, who has not been enthusiastic about the idea, has been confirmed in his scepticism by the charities' attitude.

Their reluctance arises from last year's scheme, which was implemented at short notice and ran into storage and distribution difficulties. Although the charities, which included the British Red Cross Society, the Salvation Army and Help the Aged, were highly praised for their efforts, they believed they were blamed for the shortcomings.

Because of the lack of a national distribution network, deliveries were patchy.

The charities' reluctance has been increased because the latest scheme is intended to be permanent and the demands on time and resources entailed are regarded as unacceptable.

The Government is aware that, if it rejects the EEC proposals on the grounds of administrative difficulties, it will be criticized as being indifferent to the needs of the poor and the unemployed.

Closure threat to the last steam mill



By Ian Smith

The clatter of looms, the smell of raw wool and cotton and the shadows cast by hissing gas lamps... a familiar scene last century, but also the daily routine of this Lancashire mill still run in the old-fashioned way by workers in Victorian dress. The Queen Street Mill in Harle Syke, near Burnley, is

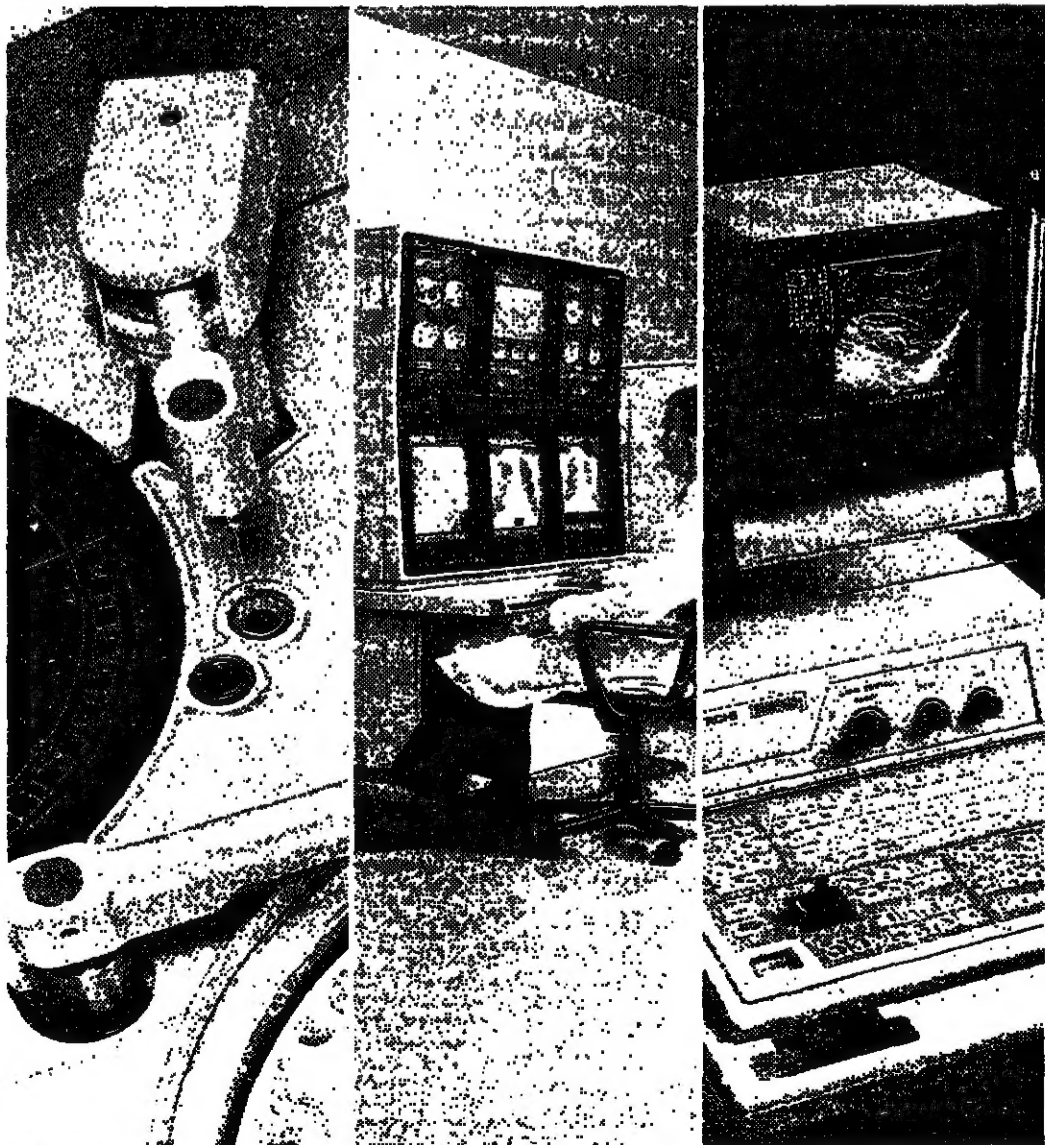
Europe's sole remaining steam-driven factory. However, it could close soon: funding from the Manpower Services Commission and the Department of the Environment will end in the next two years. Unless alternative sources are found, the last vestige of original mill life will disappear.

The mill functions primarily as an

active production unit, weaving designer clothing on looms installed in 1895. It is also a museum which each year attracts 8,000 visitors eager to absorb the smells and sounds of British industrial history. Mrs Anna Benson, second left in the photograph, believes it would be a tragedy if the last steam mill was lost. "Part of our

heritage is doomed unless the money is forthcoming from an organization such as the National Trust or a philanthropist", Mrs Benson said. The mill, listed as an ancient monument, is staffed by 30 people, many of them descendants of original mill workers. (Photograph: Barry Greenwood).

Medicine should be more than
the ability to treat or cure.
The best care and treatment come from
precise diagnosis.



Hitachi's advances in medical electronics extend to automatic blood chemistry analysis, a Picture Archiving and Communications System, diagnostic ultrasonics and Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

Medical electronics have brought marvelous progress to diagnostic medicine in recent years. Great strides have been made in biochemical analysis, electron microscopes and medical information systems. Another shining example is the advent of imaging equipment which uses magnetic resonance to display even the most subtle changes in body chemistry.

Hitachi's scientists and engineers are now at work on an innovative system which will make it feasible to store, retrieve and use comprehensive diagnostic data from a wide array of imaging equipment — from the most sophisticated Magnetic Resonance Imaging units (MRI) to nuclear medicine, ultrasonic scanners and X-ray CT, to name just a few. This Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) should lead not only to more precise diagnosis but also to formation of research and education information networks which use medical image data to the fullest.

Hitachi are also developing highly advanced electronic microscopes for exploring the world of micro-fine objects — indispensable in basic studies of medicine and biology. And we are creating medical equipment such as an automatic blood chemistry analyzer and an information processing system.

We link technology to human needs. We believe that Hitachi's advanced technologies will result in systems that serve peoples' needs more precisely and fully than ever before. Our goal in medicine — and communications, energy and transportation as well — is to create and put into practice innovations that will improve the quality of life the world around.



WORLD ROUNDUP

Canada and US sign trade pact

Ottawa — President Reagan and the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, signed a free-trade agreement in separate ceremonies on Saturday, the President in Palm Springs, California, and the Prime Minister in Ottawa (John Best writes). The accord, which has to be ratified by the US Congress and the Canadian Parliament, forces the abolition of all tariffs between the United States and Canada over a 10-year period, starting on January 1, 1989.

In his weekly radio address to Americans, Mr Reagan called the treaty a "truly historic pact" that would create jobs, and bring down prices on both sides of the border. Mr Mulroney said the agreement would "strengthen the fabric" of Canadian society. But Mr John Turner, leader of the Liberal Opposition in the Canadian Parliament, criticized the accord as a "sale of Canada act". The treaty was concluded in October after 16 months of negotiations and its opponents and supporters staged protests along the Canada-US border during the signing ceremonies.

Girls to be freed

Beirut (Reuters) — A French mediator, M Lucien Bitterlin, said yesterday that two French children seized by Palestinian guerrillas in November and held in Lebanon would be freed before the end of the month.

He told reporters he had talks about the fate of Marie-Laure Valente, aged five, and her sister, Virginie, aged six, with officials of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal.

The two girls, with their mother, Mme Jacqueline Valente, and five Belgians, have been held captive since the guerrillas seized their yacht off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

Dissident released

Warsaw — As Czechoslovakia marks the 20th anniversary this week of the coming to power of the ill-fated "Prague Spring" reformer, Mr Alexander Dubcek, the authorities have released Mr Karel Srp, the leader of the country's largest independent cultural organization, the Jazz Section (A Correspondent writes). He had served a 16-month sentence for illegal economic activities.

Mr Srp said that he hoped the Jazz Section would continue its activities. The group ran foul of the authorities for publishing uncensored books and magazines.

Mafia's old master

Rome — Paintings by one of Italy's most notorious Mafia criminals, Luciano Liggio, fetched prices between £200 and £4,000 in a Palermo gallery. Liggio, suspected of being the "Godfather of Godfathers" in Italian organized crime, is serving a life sentence for murder (A Correspondent writes). He was one of the most wanted and feared Mafia leaders.

The paintings depict Liggio's native Corleone and the Sicilian countryside. Money made by the sales will go towards building an artificial kidney centre in Corleone. When the show opened on Saturday, 38 out of 55 paintings were already reserved by buyers and a large crowd gathered to catch a glimpse of the "Boss of Corleone". But the artist had been refused permission to leave jail for the opening.

The Pope Yemeni feeds poor mission

Rome — As most Italians were recovering from a week of gastronomic over-indulgence, the Pope yesterday served a three-course meal to about 150 of Rome's poor (A Correspondent writes).

The group — many of them old, sick, chronically alcoholic or mentally ill — was assembled by the volunteers of the Circolo S Pietro, a Catholic body that each day distributes more than 500 free meals and prepared the food for yesterday's meal. It was the first time the Pope has personally served food to the poor.

The mother of two Birmingham women, who claimed they were sold as teenage brides in North Yemen, will make a second attempt today to meet Yemeni officials before visiting her daughters (Nicholas Beeston writes).

On Saturday Mrs Miriam Ali and the British Consul were told the officials were "too busy" to see them. The daughters, who are British-Yemeni nationals, want to return to the UK with their families, but are awaiting Home Office approval for their husbands' visas.

Tribute to Bob Hope



President Reagan congratulating comedian Bob Hope, aged 84, after awarding him the first "America's Hope Award" for a lifetime of service and achievements. Mr Reagan made the presentation on Saturday night before political and Hollywood celebrities as part of a gala tribute which marked the opening of the Bob Hope Cultural Centre in Palm Desert, near Palm Springs, California.

Bruised American males fight the feminist tide

From Charles Bremner
New York

A quarter of a century since American men bowed to the onset of feminism, they are standing up for their rights. Things have, in the opinion of many US males, gone too far in favour of women.

It is not that women have taken power; there are no women presidential candidates, no female bosses of the big corporations, and only one woman Supreme Court justice. In fact, the feminist movement has over the past two years beaten a tactical retreat with the demise of the sexual revolution, the return to conservative values, and the realization that combining child-bearing with a successful career is difficult.

But more than two decades of female assertiveness have left the American male bruised and defensive, a victim of what spokesmen for the emerging men's movement call "reverse sexism". Their creed is that women cannot have it both ways.

"There is a revolution brewing," says Mr Warren Farrell, author of the successful book *Why Men Are*

the Way They Are. "It is spreading slowly among men who are getting the courage to say, 'I've been attacked long enough. I need to tell women that I have hurts and hang-ups, too'."

Men are weary of the derision heaped on them in magazines and a spate of best-sellers, the latest of which is Shere Hite's *Women and Love*. Sales of that book have fallen since Miss Hite was accused by (male) sociologists of using false data and pseudo-science to support her ideology.

Such man-bashing works usually assign unflattering stereotypes to the gender such as "poodles, wolves, turkeys, sharks and worms", as one 1983 book listed them.

Mr Sidney Siller, a New York divorce lawyer who has founded the National Organization for Men, says men have been politically threatened. "Men have been wimpified. They are intimidated by what amounts to a female party."

Mr Siller and like-thinkers are enraged by Supreme Court decisions that effectively give priority to women's rights over individual lib-

erties. In the most celebrated ruling, the court last March upheld the principle of "affirmative action", the practice enforced in some states under which female employees are promoted over better-qualified males to rectify past injustice to women.

The organization this month filed lawsuits in New York against two exclusive women's clubs, the Colony and the Cosmopolitan, because they rejected male members. This was a response to court rulings this year that have forced celebrated men-only establishments, such as the Century in New York and the Bohemian in San Francisco, to open their doors to women. Men's advocates say the state has no right to interfere with privacy and free association.

The male counter-revolution is also emerging in the criminal court. Feminists are angry over the defence tactics in a sensational murder trial about to open in Manhattan. The accused, a well-to-do young man, claims that he killed his girl friend in self-defence while she was trying to rape him. His lawyers are planning to provide evidence to prove that

she had a history of sexual aggressiveness.

Some legal experts are saying that women cannot have it both ways: if a man's past history of violence can be cause for acquitting a woman of his murder under the so-called "battered wife syndrome", then a court must be allowed to hear corresponding evidence cited by a man.

On another legal front so far dominated by women, men's organizations say they are gathering evidence of sexual harassment of men at work by female colleagues.

Mr Farrell, a psychologist who has undergone a conversion since serving as an officer of the trail-blazing National Organization of Women, says women must face up to some of their own shortcomings.

Among these, he says, is a tendency to view men as "success-objects", just as men have treated women as sex-objects. Popular fiction, television soap operas and films show that, despite all the propaganda about sensitive, caring males, women still prize strong, successful and sometimes violent

men — the knight with the black Porsche.

Women still do not want vulnerable bachelors like Clark Kent: they want his bulletproof alter ego, Superman. A successful career woman wants her man to be even more successful and strong, says Mr Farrell. And as more and more women fail to find mates, they are increasingly casting men in the role of villains, say men's advocates.

While plenty of men agree on the confusion and uncertainties bred by women's liberation, there is much disagreement among men's advocates over what to do.

Mr Farrell urges women to stop seeing men as the enemy and pleads for peaceful collaboration. Others, such as the New York lawyers, seem to want men to win the post-feminist battle of the sexes.

And there are the unreconstructed traditionalists who would apparently be happy if things just went back to the old ways. One of these, Norman Podhoretz, the writer, pronounced this year that the feminist movement has "left behind it a vast wreckage of broken and twisted lives".

Palestinian protests feared over killing of woman

Israelis will deport riot 'organizers' despite allied pleas

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel has decided to ignore pleas from its closest allies and issue deportation orders against nine Palestinians, including some alleged to have been organizers and instigators of the recent violent public disturbances in the occupied territories.

Deportation, the most feared of Israeli punishments, has usually been an excuse for further protest demonstrations and rioting in the past. The inevitable anger the nine new orders will cause will be further fanned by the shooting yesterday of a 25-year-old Palestinian woman while she was doing her laundry in a village located just north of Jerusalem.

Palestinian sources say that she was killed when she started screaming after she saw a soldier using a rifle butt to beat a boy caught throwing stones at a patrol.

Major-General Amram Mitzna, in charge of Central Command, later visited the scene and decided the shooting was not in accordance with proper procedure and both the soldier and his commanding officer were suspended, pending an investigation.

The deportations are nevertheless bound to cause the

most trouble, and American condemnations are sure to follow. Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon have already announced that they will not accept any deportees, which means Israel might have to smuggle them across borders and risk more trouble.

Mr David Mellor, the junior Foreign Office minister responsible for the Middle East, who starts a tour of the occupied territories in Gaza today, said last night: "We condemn the policy of deportation by the Israelis as we have done many times in the past. They are contrary to international law and do nothing to help the situation."

The decision to issue the orders was approved by yesterday's Cabinet meeting, which had considered the idea. Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, had already served notice in a speech last Friday that the American warning would be ignored.

An army spokesman said a file had been built up against several of those involved before the recent disturbances began, with a view to their arrest and deportation. It was something of a coincidence

that their cases had come up at this time.

The nine include a 45-year-old lawyer from Ramallah and the imam of a Gaza mosque, said to have called in sermons for Muslims "to fight the Jews in every way, even if it means dying in the process". The imam is the only one of the nine not to have previous convictions for security offences.

The nine have the right of appeal to an advisory committee headed by a military court judge and of then appealing further to the High Court, a process which can take months.

Deportation orders are supposed to be issued only to those thought to be "extremely hostile". It is a punishment that Israel says has been carried out about 60 times in the past, with just 19 cases since the policy was reactivated in August, 1985.

● TUNIS: Mr Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said in Kuwait yesterday that he had received assurances from authorities in Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan, all bordering Israel, that they would refuse to accept Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories (AFP reports).



Palestinian women demonstrating in El-Ram village, north of Jerusalem, yesterday over the killing of a young woman by a member of the Israeli security forces earlier in the day.

Carlucci tour to reassure Gulf Arabs

By Nicholas Beeston

The US Secretary of Defence, Mr Frank Carlucci, begins a four-nation tour of Arab Gulf states today on a visit intended to reassure Washington's allies of its commitment to the region and to explore ways of streamlining its largely successful but costly naval operation in the Gulf.

The trip, Mr Carlucci's first to the region since he replaced Mr Caspar Weinberger in November, includes meetings with leaders in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman, and an inspection of US Navy warships operating in the Gulf.

US officials in the region yesterday were reluctant to give details of his schedule for security reasons, but they said he was hoping to gauge the views of Arab leaders, primarily about the protection of merchant shipping.

The US Navy has escorted 22 convoys of Kuwaiti tankers

Kuwaiti territory, and the continued tanker war. In 1987 Tehran targeted the bulk of its naval attacks against tankers shipping Kuwaiti and Saudi oil. Iran was also blamed for the riots in Mecca last summer and for firing nine Chinese-made Silkworm missiles at Kuwaiti oil installations. Last month it was accused of attempting to sabotage an oil installation in Bahrain.

In spite of the attacks, the Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, was quoted yesterday as saying that Tehran was prepared to hold talks with the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council, grouping Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, so long as an agenda could be agreed beforehand.

His remarks came after an agreement by the GCC heads of government at the end of December to maintain con-

tacts with Tehran in order to find a peaceful solution to the seven-year war.

The conciliatory Arab position has coincided with renewed efforts by the Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr Farouq al-Shara, to mediate in the conflict. Arab diplomats have reported that Damascus has intervened on behalf of the Gulf states in an attempt to persuade Tehran not to launch a new military offensive.

Damascus is believed to have warned Tehran that if it attempts a new year attack against Iraq the UN Security Council is likely to impose an arms boycott against Tehran.

The five permanent members of the council, Britain, China, France, the United States and the Soviet Union, have been unable to agree on the arms ban to follow UN Resolution, 598 largely because of reluctance on the part of the Moscow.

Caribbean split on Haiti crisis

By Alan Tomlinson

The political turmoil in Haiti has also turned into a crisis for the rest of the Caribbean, which is split over how to deal with the issue.

Heads of state from the 13-nation Caribbean Community (Caricom) are to hold an emergency meeting in Barbados on Wednesday in an effort to come up with a coherent Haitian initiative.

They hope to find common ground from which to confront Haiti's military Government on the need for democracy in the region before it holds general elections next month under rules that have been widely condemned as a recipe for rigging the ballot and maintaining army control.

But Caricom must first put an end to internal sniping that has followed an ill-fated diplomatic effort to talk the Haitian junta round to the Caribbean view.

"Everybody has been getting into the act on Haiti and giving a lot of heat and no light," said Mr John Compton, the Prime Minister of St Lucia, who is the current Caricom chairman. However, the prospects for successful fence-mending were made less likely last week when Mr Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, who has been criticized for going to Haiti without a clear Caribbean mandate, announced that he would not attend the summit meeting.

A long absence of agreement on how to deal with Haiti led to Caricom's failure to send a team of official observers to the nation's first attempt to hold a general election in three decades. The Jamaican special envoy, Mr Neville Gallimore, agreed to circulate a report instead.

When the election was called off on November 29, as gunmen and troops massacred voters at the polls, Jamaica took the lead, as it had done during the 1983 crisis in Grenada. But whereas Mr Seaga had led the call for a US invasion four years ago, he now counselled understanding and restraint.

The Jamaican led a group of "concerned Caribbean leaders" to Port-au-Prince,

Mr Compton among them, but the conciliatory nature of their approach drew a barrage of criticism throughout the region. They were accused of showing support for the Haitian junta at a time when most nations were condemning it.

The criticism intensified when the junta rejected the group's advice and drew up a new electoral law that appears to have justified the worst fears of the Haitian opposition, which says it will boycott the January 17 poll.

The embarrassed Seaga group quickly joined the chorus condemning the new election rules. "We are not going to put our reputations on the line to uphold a dictatorship," observed another member of the group, Mr



Mr Seaga: To miss Caricom meeting on Wednesday.

James Mitchell, the Prime Minister of St Vincent. Trinidad, which had opposed the invasion of Grenada and was equally unsuccessful in urging that official Caricom observers should go to Haiti, dissociated itself from the Seaga initiative.

Mr Arthur Robinson, the Prime Minister of Trinidad, expressed surprise that the mission should have gone ahead in the Caribbean's name despite the absence of regional agreement. He seized the initiative by calling for the emergency Caricom meeting.

Haiti enjoys observer status at Caricom meetings, but could soon find itself an outcast. Mr Compton believes the Caricom countries will refuse to recognize any government chosen under Haiti's present electoral rules.

Reagan plans pre-summit talks with Thatcher

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

President Reagan is planning talks with Mrs Thatcher in London before his summit in Moscow with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader.

Senior Administration officials said there was "a five possibility" that Mr Reagan would fly to Western Europe about six weeks before the summit, which now looks like being either in late May or early June, principally to demonstrate that the superpower treaty banning medium-range missiles will not diminish US commitment to Western Europe's defence.

Mr Reagan's agenda for the final year of his presidency will involve more travel than normal, a move designed to give him a higher profile as his influence continues to wane. He will travel to Cancun for talks with President de la Madrid of Mexico next month on Mexico's international debt and the troubled Central American peace plan.

Soon after returning from Moscow he will leave for the economic summit in Toronto of the seven industrialized democracies. His strategists have decided that he should avoid confrontations with the Democratic-controlled Congress on arms control.

But Mr Reagan appears ready to

confront Congress over his demand for aid to the Nicaraguan Contras. He faces an uphill battle in his request for \$270 million (£145 million) in additional aid, most of it for military purposes. That figure may be revised before a formal request is submitted. A vote is expected early in February.

Although more military aid seems likely to be rejected, the Democrats may be ready to grant "humanitarian" assistance to allow the Contras to resettle with their families.

US 'ground testing' Star Wars laser

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The US military is reported to have begun ground tests of a two-million-watt laser, one of the key projects in President Reagan's controversial Strategic Defence Initiative, in the hope of launching it into space in the early 1990s.

According to the manufacturers of the weapon, it will be powerful enough to damage or destroy orbiting targets. The *New York Times* reported yesterday that the first full-scale tests began on December 23 at a facility near San Juan Capistrano, California, owned by TRW Inc, the laser's builder.

Under the traditional interpretation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, testing of the weapon in space would be banned. However, the Reagan Administra-

tion has challenged the interpretation, although it recently declared that for now it would continue to accept the traditional reading of the accord.

The US military has rejected the weapon in the past because of doubts about its ability to destroy satellites. Its re-emergence is essentially the result of a political decision by the Reagan Administration, which has been looking for new space tests to satisfy its broader interpretation of the ABM Treaty, under which weapons tests in space would be permitted.

The laser project was started 10 years ago, long before the Strategic Defence Initiative was launched, and has suffered many technical problems. The first test involved the cold

flow of fuel through the laser, according to a spokesman for the Air Force Weapons Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which manages the programme for the Pentagon's Strategic Defence Initiative organization.

"It achieved what we wanted," he said. Another series of tests was planned in the spring. The device, code-named Alpha, is a chemical laser.

Significant amounts of combustible energy are extracted by mirrors and resonant chambers and turned into a concentrated beam of light. It is relatively small and light. TRW Inc officials say the weapon could be made much more powerful by small variations in the design.

that a meeting of heads of Nato governments may now take place in March.

Such a meeting had originally been proposed for December 11, immediately after the signing of the INF Treaty. However, as a regular meeting of Nato's foreign ministers was already scheduled and member nations had been kept fully informed about the progress of the treaty negotiations, it was decided to postpone it.

Pressure is now building up for such a meeting. The main official reason will be the intention to present a common Nato position before the next superpower summit, at which it is intended to sign a treaty on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons (Start). Both Mr Gorbachov and Mr Reagan forecast this would take place around the middle of this year.

However, the allies are worrying about other problems which, according to the officials, could well make a spring meeting of heads of government important. One concern is the need to resist what is seen as a determined Soviet attempt to de-nuclearize Europe, and to demonstrate Alliance unity.

Recently Mr Erich Honecker, the East German Communist leader, called for a nuclear-free East and West Germany. Although such a statement is not new, Nato officials feel that it may now fall on more receptive ears in the West.

Moscow and Washington step up war of words on Afghanistan

Russia pins blame on Western help

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Soviet Union has intensified its propaganda offensive aimed at highlighting what it alleges is "illegitimate foreign involvement" in the Afghan war that is helping to frustrate the withdrawal of some 115,000 Soviet troops now serving there.

Yesterday *Izvestia* alleged that Iran was instructing Afghan guerrillas in special schools and giving them practical battle training in the Gulf War, prior to sending them on cross-border missions into Afghanistan.

The government newspaper quoted Mr Said Ahmad, aged 25, who said that he was among 1,200 Afghans who attended a three-month course at a school in a Tehran suburb where they were instructed in the use of explosives, hand-to-hand combat and tear gas defence.

The former Mujahidin guerrilla, who subsequently de-

Tass maintained earlier that an American adviser had been killed in the fighting near Khost. It said that rebel forces near the town had been accompanied by "armed Pakistanis" and 50 foreign advisers, but did not give their nationalities.

The Reagan Administration has repeatedly denied that there are any American advisers in Afghanistan or that one had been killed near Khost. But Western sources in Kabul reported recently that US advisers employed by the CIA had been operating in Pakistan training the Muslim guerrillas in the use of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles supplied to them by the US.

As part of the new propaganda drive, *Pravda* claimed yesterday that a new extremist group, Raab-i Alam-i Islami had been formed in Islamabad with the aim of mounting attacks on Soviet targets on a worldwide basis.

"The clearer the outline of a political settlement in Afghanistan, the more fiercely the enemies of the republic oppose it," *Pravda* said. "They disregard the fact that the national reconciliation policy being pursued by the Afghan leadership meets with support among Afghan people, including those who are outside the country, who have got tired of the fratricidal war."

It said in reference to the new Pakistan-based group: "The serious danger posed by the organization's activity should be clear to everyone. Those who connive at terrorism are assuming a grave responsibility."

Another Soviet paper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, reported yesterday that M. Alain Guillo, a French reporter and cameraman arrested last September after entering Afghanistan illegally with Muslim rebels, has been charged with having Afghan interests and would go on trial soon in Kabul.

Western sources in the Afghan capital fear that M. Guillo will receive a heavy sentence because his trial will be used as a weapon in the campaign of the Afghan re-



One of 2,000 mules brought from Tennessee carrying Stinger missile equipment for the Afghan rebels. General Rahim Wardak (below, left), a Mujahidin commander, planning his campaign in the mountains. Photograph: John Gunston

gime to try to deter Western newsmen who have helped to publicize the rebels' cause by travelling with them.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, which interviewed M. Guillo in his Afghan prison cell, alleged that he had been involved in spying when he was handed over to the Afghan forces by a guerrilla leader who had switched allegiance.

The newspaper, whose biased interview gave Western diplomats here little optimism that M. Guillo will get a fair trial, quoted the Afghan Defence Ministry as stating that foreigners from 11 countries had made trips similar to M. Guillo's inside Afghanistan over the past year.

"The Afghan military considers that the interests of the

overwhelming majority of these people were far from 'personal', the paper stated. They were engaged in terrorist, subversive and reconnaissance activities under the control of or on assignment from Western news services which now do everything possible to reduce to naught the Afghan Government's attempt at ending the war, to frustrate the process of bringing about a settlement of the Afghan problem, and to make the return home of Soviet troops impossible."

Western reporters who are occasionally permitted to cover the war from the Soviet side with special visas provided by the Afghan Government are closely supervised during their stay by KHAD, the Afghan secret police.

Reagan pledge to maintain aid for Mujahidin

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan has sent a private message reassuring the anti-communist guerrillas in Afghanistan that they will continue to receive substantial military and political support from the United States as long as the Soviet Union continues its occupation of the country.

The message came as senior US officials arrived in Islamabad for talks to co-ordinate political strategy with Pakistan, and to send a public signal that the US is continuing to stand behind the rebels.

Mr Michael Armacost, the Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, and Mr Robert Oakley, Middle East director of the National Security Council staff, hope to meet Mr Mansur Yamin Khalifa, chairman of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin, and other senior resistance leaders.

But it was not immediately clear whether the meeting will be possible because of the situation around Khost.

The visit comes just before the final round of the proximity talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Geneva, under the aegis of the United Nations, which are regarded by the US as critical in determining whether Moscow is serious about its pledge to pull out.

The Islamabad talks will cover the difficult question of when, and under what conditions, the US would stop aiding the rebels. The Soviet Union's promise of a withdrawal in 12 months "or less" has raised fears that the US might cut off aid prematurely.

But State Department officials emphasized that the US will do nothing until it sees the full agreement for withdrawal. US military aid to the fighters was reported to be about \$660 million (\$350 million) last year, but the appropriation for 1988 is believed to be much lower at this stage.

Congress would undoubtedly make further appropri-

ations if Moscow continues to refuse to set a firm date for withdrawal. US officials say the Administration is ready to increase the flow of weapons to the resistance to enable them to stockpile reserves for use after any US cut-off.

The Islamabad talks will also cover the complicated question of a transitional government in Afghanistan that can remain in the country when the Soviet Union has pulled out its troops. Pakistani officials believe that Afghanistan's exiled King Zahir should play a central role, if only in convening Afghanistan's tribal National Council.

Concession hopes: There has been mounting speculation that the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul may be willing for the first time to make real concessions at the Geneva talks (Edward Gorman writes).

Recent statements from the Afghan leader, Dr Najibullah, and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev suggest that the Soviet Union may be willing to reduce its withdrawal period, provided Western aid to the Mujahidin is stopped.

In diplomatic circles in Islamabad, however, the view is less optimistic. One European analyst said yesterday that he felt the prospects for a sweeping change of tack by the Soviet Union at Geneva was too much to hope for.

"I would think there will be a little bit of movement forward, but I remain very cautious because I don't see any details of a possible withdrawal worked out. There seems to be little to go on beyond expressions of good intent on both sides."

Perhaps more significantly, there is as yet no sign that the Mujahidin leaders, who have never been directly represented at Geneva, will be persuaded to stop fighting in the wake of an agreed withdrawal by Soviet troops.

Thatcher set for African lesson

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher sets off today on a visit to Kenya and Nigeria where she is likely to face strong criticism over her stand on further sanctions against South Africa, which left Britain isolated at the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers conference.

Mrs Thatcher is planning to moderate the criticism with forthright condemnations of apartheid. Downing Street is predicting the five-day trip as a "look and learn" operation to see Africa on the ground.

As well as the state banquets in both countries and talks with President Moi of Kenya and President Babangida of Nigeria, whom she has not met before, Mrs Thatcher will visit rural training centres, schools, tea plantations and chicken farms, and indigo dye pits at Kano in northern Nigeria.

When under attack at future Commonwealth Prime Ministers conferences, Mrs Thatcher will thus be less open to the accusation that she has shown no interest in black Africa and its problems. But the Prime Minister cannot expect to be lionized, as on some foreign trips, on what will be her first visit to Africa since the Commonwealth Prime

Ministers' conference in Lusaka, Zambia, in 1979.

Major-General Babangida is seeking a leading role in the fight against apartheid and was initially reluctant to invite Mrs Thatcher. There have been protests in the Nigerian capital against her visit, and it is significant that Mrs Thatcher will spend less than 24 hours in Lagos, heading north to Kano the next morning before flying home.

Even in Kenya, where her three-day visit begins today, it is likely that Mrs Thatcher will face some vigorous questioning, although Mr Moi has been more cautious in his pronouncements on South Africa.

Downing Street, however, believes that the sanctions issue will not dominate the African visit because the Prime Minister's views — that increasing sanctions would only harden attitudes, lose jobs for black Africans and damage the frontline states — are well known. She has been noticeably severe in her strictures on apartheid since Vancouver. In the Commons recently she called it "totally and utterly repugnant and detestable", and she will go out of her way on the African

trip to repeat her abhorrence of apartheid.

One aim of the visit is to strengthen ties with two of Britain's most important trading partners in Africa. Two-way trade with Nigeria is worth more than £1 billion a year. Relations with Nigeria have improved steadily since the Dikko affair in 1984.

Mrs Thatcher will discuss Africa's debt problems with Lagos (AFP) — Nigerian military authorities have rehabilitated some officers dismissed after a failed coup against President Babangida in 1985. The officers will be retired, making it easier for them to transfer to civilian jobs.

The two leaders — the continent owes more than £200 billion — and examine the practical results of aid programmes. Kenya is one of the biggest recipients of British aid, having had more than £500 million since its independence.

Nigeria is struggling to restore its economy after years of corruption and mismanagement, and the Government's problems are complicated by the slump in oil revenues. The Nigerians suspect that

Mrs Thatcher may urge them to mediate in the war in Angola.

But Nigeria is said to be supportive of the present Angolan Government and would not wish to help Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement by intervening.

JOHANNESBURG: Eleven people have been murdered in the first three days of the year in black townships around the Natal city of Pietermaritzburg, 10 of them on Saturday, police said (Ray Kennedy writes). Saturday's toll was the worst in 12 months of violence ending at least 268 lives.

The police said the victims included five who died in fighting between rival groups of blacks in Mponmuza township and three — including a 65-year-old man — stabbed in Deda township.

The violence in the area has increased in the past three months to what Archbishop Tutu has termed a "ghastly spiral of revenge killings" accompanied by an increase in savagery and barbarism in spite of the deployment of troops and the imprisonment of more than 400 people.

Leading article, page 11

Mugabe finds Nkomo a job in government reshuffle

Harare (Reuters) — President Mugabe has completed a series of political and constitutional changes by bringing Mr Joshua Nkomo, the former Opposition leader, back into Zimbabwe's Cabinet.

Announcing the reshuffle on Saturday, Mr Mugabe said Mr Nkomo would be one of three senior ministers in the President's office, overseeing several ministries, including Local Government and Rural and Urban Development.

"We are now trying to consolidate national unity by working together," Mr Nkomo said. Mr Mugabe became Zimbabwe's first Executive Minister on New Year's Eve. The post of Prime Minister, which he had held since independence seven years ago, was abolished.

Mr Nkomo's return follows the merger of the country's two main political parties, whose intermittent rivalry dated back to their leaders' uneasy alliance as guerrilla chiefs fighting white settlers in breakaway Rhodesia.

Under the new set-up, the former Opposition leader will rank just behind Mr Mugabe's deputy, Mr Simon Muzenda, the Vice-President. The shake-up gave additional powers to Mr Bernard Chidzero, the Finance Minister, who will oversee all economic ministries and planning.

President Mugabe gave the defence portfolio, which he had held himself, to Mr Enos Nkala, a bitter enemy of Mr Nkomo who is believed to have opposed the merger of the ruling Zanu-PF party with Mr Nkomo's PF-Zapu party. Mr Nkala will now oversee Zimbabwe's commitment in Mozambique.

Zimbabwe's new Foreign Minister will be Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, aged 56, a former journalist and academic who had been Minister of Information. He swapped jobs with Mr Witness Mangwende, whose removal from the Foreign Ministry was widely expected. Mr Mangwende was named for a 1986 diplomatic row with the United States which led to a cut in US aid.

Messrs Mugabe, Muzenda, Nkomo, Chidzero and the third-senior minister, Mr Maurice Nyagumbo, responded to the reshuffle by saying they were "not shaken by the experience, he reported: 'The rules regarding candidates to have impeccable manners don't extend to the organizers of the pageants.' Cheats, crooks, pirates and usurpers were among the more profitable insults traded between the three combatants."

Seeking superior guidance, the WSJ's man turned to Mr Eric Morley, who seems to have been presiding over the annual Miss World Contest since time began. Also, he obviously finds it all utterly confusing, and, in his own opinion, "France needs a good cleaning up."

Some hope. All three of being taken over by them. Paris-based Interpol has two sub-divisions dealing specifically with drugs and financial fraud. But the 146-nation secretariat is forbidden by its charter to become involved in investigations of a political nature. Dr Rider said that it appeared that anti-corruption laws "only applied to those who have already fallen from political power and favour". The Secretary-General of Interpol, Mr Raymond Ken-

dale, said that his agency had noticed since 1982 that diplomats, particularly from Africa, had been recruited to act as drugs couriers.

According to other enforcement agencies, the corrupt practices have spread to foreign aid donations, where donor countries often find it difficult to ensure that aid money reaches its proper recipients.

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky is Senior Lecturer in Government at Brunel University.

Ershad's opponents urge poll boycott

Dhaka — As Bangladesh opposition parties yesterday spurned a parliamentary election offer by the Government and announced fresh strikes from tomorrow, police used teargas to break up 10,000 protesters urging voters to boycott the elections on February 28 (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Opposition leaders are demanding President Ershad's resignation so that a caretaker administration can organize elections.

Miners die Rio de Janeiro (Reuters) — Miners' leaders said at least 50 miners protesting against safety conditions died in a clash with police in Serra Pelada.

Oil spill alert Pittsburgh (Reuters) — More than 1,000 people were evacuated when an oil spill from a factory here contaminated 15 miles of Pennsylvania's Monongahela River.

Barley poser Peking (Reuters) — China's growing demand for beer is threatening grain output for food as more fields are turned over to barley.

Staff of life Springfield (Reuters) — Two women trapped for 10 days in their wheelchair in a remote part of Arizona survived on nuts and a bread roll.

Buried alive Peking (Reuters) — Archaeologists have found tombs in Shanghai containing the bodies of four slaves who were buried alive 4,500 years ago.

Fire deaths Melbourne (Reuters) — An Australian who quarrelled with the man with whom she lived burnt herself and her two children to death.

Drugs seized Karachi (Reuters) — Pakistani police seized 2.4 tonnes of hashish from a warehouse here and arrested a watchman.

Coins cache Cairo (AP) — Egypt announced the discovery of 820 gold coins buried 1,300 years ago in a monk's cell at Sohag.

Sea rescue Akrotiri (Reuters) — A British Army helicopter ferried an injured Soviet seaman from his ship to hospital in Cyprus.

Pilots' strike Madrid — Iberia airline pilots plan to strike from January 14 in a dispute over holidays.

Lightning theory in jet crash

From Rasit Gurdilek Ankara

Lightning was considered yesterday as one of the possible causes of the crash of a West German passenger plane in Turkey at the weekend in which 16 people died.

There were 11 Turkish passengers and five German crewmen on board the Boeing 737 of Condor Airlines, a subsidiary of Lufthansa, when it slammed into a hill near Izmir on Saturday. It was chartered to fly Turkish "guest workers" on home leave back to Stuttgart.

As rescue teams, assisted by West German experts, were searching for clues to the crash, Mr Ekrem Pakdemirli, the Turkish Transport Minister, blamed it on pilot error or "static electricity" caused by lightning which crippled the plane's instruments.

The plane, he added, was actually flying away from the airport in the direction of Athens when it went into the hill.

According to the radio messages recorded by the control tower of Adnan Menderes international airport, the pilot said he was seeing something below, possibly the hill, he was flying into. Though he radioed the plane's altitude as 4,000ft, the control tower established it to be only 1,950ft.



West German experts inspecting yesterday the wreckage of the charter plane which crashed into a hill at Izmir.

France's 30-year war of beauty

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The beauty and grace of French women is acknowledged throughout the civilized world. Whether that definition includes beauty contests is an open question, but how many other countries could contrive to pull not one, not two, but three young ladies out of the hat every year as the true image of womanhood?

Where else, come to that, but in this incurably litigious nation would skirmishing over the legal right to the title have lasted for three decades with no sign of a truce?

At the heart of what has become known as *la guerre des Misses* lies a tangle of claims and counter-claims, accusations and allegations, spiced

with invective from all directions. Put as simply as possible, the respective organizers of the Comité Miss France, the Fédération des Concours de Beauté et d'Elegance, and the Comité Officiel et National Miss France each claim to be the only real thing.

Yet for all the writhing flying between them, the law appears to be of little help. Ten years ago, a French court decided that there was nothing to prevent anyone from having pretty young women to compete to call themselves Miss France, as long as the contest was conducted fairly.

In an attempt to establish what that means, *The Wall Street Journal* recently dis-

patched its intrepid Thomas Kamm into the fray. Clearly shaken by the experience, he reported: "The rules regarding candidates to have impeccable manners don't extend to the organizers of the pageants." Cheats, crooks, pirates and usurpers were among the more profitable insults traded between the three combatants.

Seeking superior guidance, the WSJ's man turned to Mr Eric Morley, who seems to have been presiding over the annual Miss World Contest since time began. Also, he obviously finds it all utterly confusing, and, in his own opinion, "France needs a good cleaning up."

Some hope. All three

organizations have already chosen their own Miss France for 1988 and the new crop of law suits is said to be coming along very nicely after some unkind remarks about "pseudo-elections" and "underage candidates parading with titles they never won" made on television.

But does anyone really care any more? Even Miss Ajaccio admits to the heresy of thinking that to be Miss France these days "means nothing". French feminists could not agree more, while an entirely unsentimental poll in my local bar suggests ordinary Frenchmen still prefer their women to provide rather more of an arousal than the average beauty queen.

World's police spotlight corruption

By Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

Senior law enforcement officials from around the world are debating whether to establish a new anti-corruption agency to deal with the rising threat of drugs and fraud-related corruption, which they say has penetrated some Third World governments.

At a recent conference in Hong Kong senior police officers and officials from 31 countries identified these areas as two of the most disturbing problems facing global policing.

According to Dr Barry Rider, the Chief Fraud Officer at the British Commonwealth Secretariat, organized criminals, including the Yakuza in Japan, the Triad societies in South-East Asia and the Mafia, bribe officials to protect drug-trafficking operations and prohibit interference when profits are laundered.

He maintained that a few countries, especially small Pacific and Caribbean islands, provide havens for organized criminals and were in danger

of being taken over by them. Paris-based Interpol has two sub-divisions dealing specifically with drugs and financial fraud. But the 146-nation secretariat is forbidden by its charter to become involved in investigations of a political nature.

Dr Rider said that it appeared that anti-corruption laws "only applied to those who have already fallen from political power and favour". The Secretary-General of Interpol, Mr Raymond Ken-

dall, said that his agency had noticed since 1982 that diplomats, particularly from Africa, had been recruited to act as drugs couriers.

According to other enforcement agencies, the corrupt practices have spread to foreign aid donations, where donor countries often find it difficult to ensure that aid money reaches its proper recipients.

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky is Senior Lecturer in Government at Brunel University.

Moscow poll shows cool public view of reforms

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The bleakest picture yet published of the Soviet public's negative attitude to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms dominated the new year edition of *Moscow News*, a journal in the vanguard of the campaign for more openness.

A poll conducted by the paper among passengers on the Trans-Siberian Express between Moscow and Vladivostok found that the majority were either negative or apathetic about the changes at home, while a Soviet army officer was quoted as complaining bitterly about the consequences of Mr Gorbachev's policy of disarmament.

Asked if they could see any tangible results of *perestroika* (restructuring) in their everyday lives, 64 per cent said "No" and only 36 per cent answered in the affirmative.

The poll's findings came only days after a senior journalist on the Soviet Union's other main reforming organ, the magazine *Ogonyok*, was apparently dropped from the editorial board for allegedly fabricating the results of another poll which found that

Moscow (AP) — Mr Miles Jakes, the new Czechoslovak leader, will visit Moscow soon, Tass said. Czechoslovakia is weighing the need for reforms of the type being tested in the Soviet Union, and Mr Jakes's meeting with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev is likely to be important in deciding how Prague tackles the issue.

only 30 per cent of those questioned approved of the drive for *perestroika*.

The findings of the *Moscow News* poll were equally negative. Asked "What is your attitude to *perestroika*?", only 16 per cent expressed enthusiasm, while 13 per cent opposed it and 71 per cent said they would wait and see.

The paper, whose open approach has already been attacked by Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Kremlin Number Two and leader of its conservative faction, found that a majority of those questioned were against the gain economic reform.

Questioned on the consequences of the law bringing self-financing and cost-accounting to Soviet factories and industrial plants, only 26 per cent replied "positive", while 33 per cent opposed the law and 41 per cent gave no opinion.

The paper quoted one middle-aged woman as expressing

personal fears about the reforms, designed to streamline the economy. "I do not know what will become of me," she complained. "Staff reductions have started at the Moldavian *Agroprom* where I work. The smart and well-connected will most probably retain their jobs. But I am just a bookkeeper: a single mother with a teenage daughter. Who will take care of me?"

Moscow News also spoke to a lieutenant-colonel in the Soviet Army who attacked the reduction in military manpower that will result from Mr Gorbachev's determination to seek new arms control agreements. Diplomats believe that his opinion accurately reflected a concern in the armed forces which finds little expression in the official media.

"Why have you not included questions about foreign policy in your questionnaire?" the officer asked. "Disarmament and détente are all right, but what will become of me when we start reducing the Army?"

The Soviet reporter added in reference to the officer: "As I left his compartment, I glanced at his questionnaire. Answering the question about *perestroika*, the man wrote: 'I accept it, but not in all areas.'"

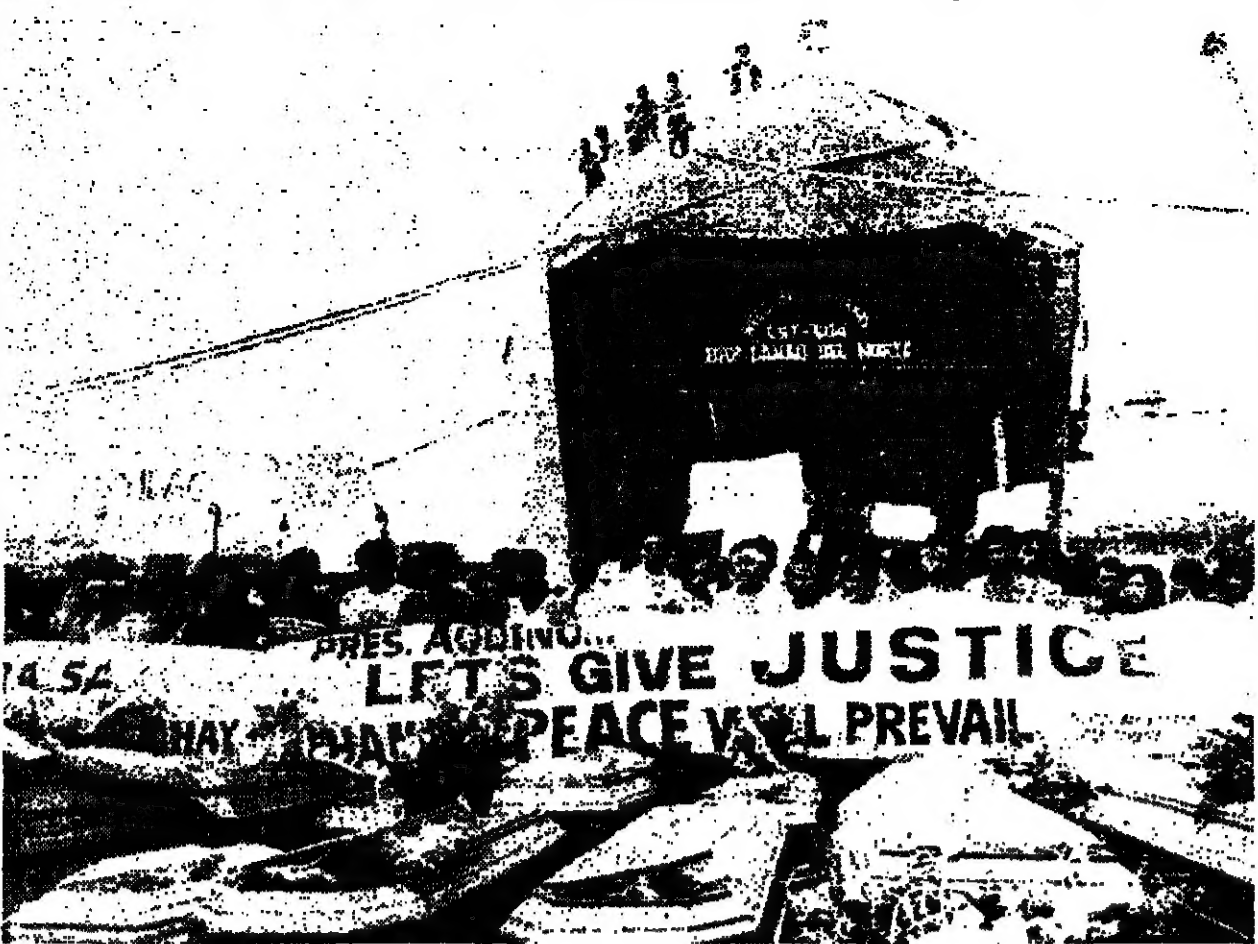
The poll was accompanied by a signed editorial by a Soviet journalist, Nikolai Shmel'ov, expressing bitter frustration with the apathy in the Soviet Union about reform and concluding: "The picture is indeed bleak."

Mr Shmel'ov said that the Soviet public had to choose between the helplessness of bureaucracy and the freedom to rid themselves of administrative burden.

"Conservatism... is fighting against the co-operative and private sector, in other words against everything at the heart of Lenin's co-operative ideas in their widest meaning," he said. "Is it a complete loss of civic conscience, blind egoism of people clutching on to privileges, economic illiteracy, or a whole movement of inertia that no one can stop?"

Whatever the cause, Mr Shmel'ov declared, urgent steps had to be taken to prevent the Gorbachev programme going the same way as Lenin's New Economic Policy and Khrushchev's reform policies. "Something must be done," he wrote, "or else this reform, like its two predecessors, will end up disappearing into thin air."

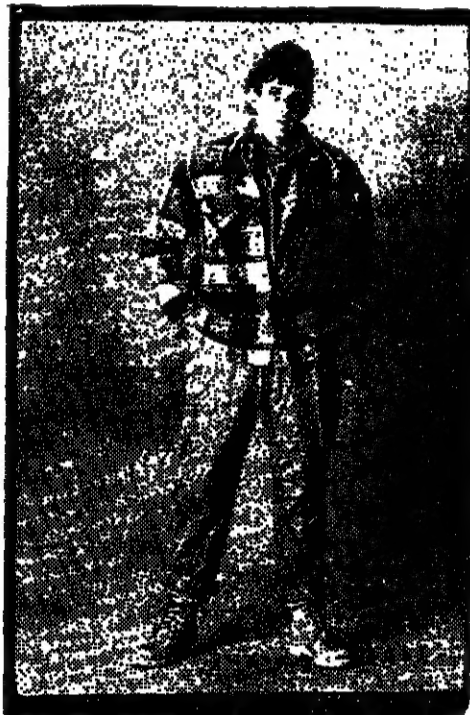
Last voyage for Filipino ferry victims



Relatives demanding justice for victims of last month's Philippines ferry disaster, in which more than 1,600 died, before coffins were loaded yesterday on to the naval ship *Lanao del Norte* at Manila's South Harbour to be taken to the victims' homes on the Visayas Islands. About 1,000 mourners marched beside vehicles carrying the remains of 100 of the dead from Rizal Stadium to the docks (AP reports). Only

26 survivors and 107 bodies have been found from the 2,215-tonne ferry, *Dona Paz*, which sank after being in collision with the 629-tonne oil tanker, *Vector*. The collision off Mindoro Island on December 20 was the century's worst peacetime disaster at sea. Mourners, who carried flags demanding "Justice and Peace for Our Loved Ones", intended to scatter flowers at the site of the collision. Officials said

only about 30 of the 107 bodies had been identified. The rest would be buried in a mass grave in Tacloban City, where the *Lanao del Norte* was to dock on Wednesday. Mr Mita Lopez, spokesman for an association of Visayans, said he had collected 3,500 applications for compensation and expected to receive about 4,000. Hearings on the disaster were to resume today.



THEY WORK THE
SAME HOURS, IN
THE SAME JOB.
WHY DOES ONE
PRODUCE TWENTY
PERCENT MORE
THAN THE OTHER

The man standing on the left is a typical American worker.

He's no brighter, no more talented than the British worker on the right.

Yet last year, despite the success of a great many British companies, the American produced 20% more.

Now one of the many reasons for that is, a lot of Americans are better trained and educated for their jobs.

Whether they work in a Boston boardroom or on a Pittsburgh production line.

And they've got the appropriate vocational qualifications to prove it.

The same is true of Germany, where 2 workers out of every 3 have qualifications that are relevant to their jobs.

In Britain, however, the figure is only 2 out of every 5.

The fact is, our vocational training and qualification system just isn't working as well as it should.

It creates overlapping qualifications in some sectors and leaves others with none at all.

And where they do exist they sometimes over-emphasise theory at the expense of practice.

So the government has set up the National Council for Vocational Qualifications.

Our job is to make the system work effectively for companies like yours.

To increase the number of well-qualified workers.

To make sure every industry, business and occupation has its own set of employment-led qualifications, designed to help increase efficiency and productivity.

Together with the Manpower Services Commission, we help employers, the unions and awarding bodies decide on the standards of competence that qualifications need to meet.

Those that do meet the standards are then stamped with the NCVQ insignia and given the title of National Vocational Qualification (or NVQ).

Some sectors have already established their standards and so we've approved the first NVQs.

In agriculture for example. And hotel and catering.

Eventually we'll have an efficient system of qualifications that covers every industry and business.

Then, who knows?

One day it could be the British worker producing twenty percent more.

For further information on the National Council for Vocational Qualifications write to us at 222 Euston Rd., London NW1 2BZ.



Peking dissidents may soon return to favour

From Robert Greaves, Peking

Two dissident intellectuals, who were expelled from the Chinese Communist Party a year ago, were believed at the weekend to be on the way to rehabilitation by party leaders.

Mr Fang Lizhi, an astrophysicist, and Mr Liu Binyan, an investigative journalist, were said by friends to be under consideration by party officials for nomination to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress, which is made up of non-party political and social groups.

It was not clear when Mr Fang and Mr Liu would be asked to join the Congress, or whether they would accept if nominated.

While not a restoration of their former party membership, the nomination of the two men to the largely ceremonial Consultative Congress would represent an effort by the party to reassure Chinese intellectuals about the continuation of the present reforms and open-door policy, Western observers in Peking said at the weekend.

Mr Fang and Mr Liu were expelled from the party during the so-called anti-bourgeois liberalization campaign.

The campaign was aimed at strengthening party control over Chinese society in the wake of student demonstrations in 12 Chinese cities in support of Western-style democracy.

Cosmonaut sang a space serenade

By Our Foreign Staff

The Soviet cosmonaut, Commander Yuri Romanenko, kept himself sane during his record 326 days in space by singing love songs to his wife in Moscow.

One of Britain's top radio hams, Mr Pat Gowen, a retired university professor, tuned in to communications between the Soviet mission control and Commander Romanenko using an old CB receiver at his Norwich home. Mr Gowen said he was startled when, during a quiet moment as the spacecraft circled the Earth, the cosmonaut, aged 43, began singing.

He dedicated the song to his wife, Elizabeth, and then began to croon. As the mission wore on, the songs became more regular and more emotional.

"Listening to him for so long, I got to know him quite well," Mr Gowen, aged 55, said yesterday. "He is a good singer and he recited very nice poetry as well."

"When he was first up there he was in quite a jolly mood, but towards the end he became quite depressed and was mainly speaking in single

syllables. His singing was becoming more and more homesick, until he was told he would be home for the new year. He perked up then."

Commander Romanenko and two colleagues returned to Earth last week after completing their mission on board the Soviet space station, Mir.

His condition is now being monitored by Soviet doctors as preparations get under way for a 30-month mission to Mars early next century.

A space probe to one of the moons of Mars will take place this year, according to Mr Vyacheslav Babakov, deputy director of the Space Research Institute. In an interview published yesterday in the armed forces newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*, he added that the Soviet Union also plans to add extensions to Mir this year and conduct space research into gamma rays with France and Poland.

He said extensions to be launched and connected to the Mir space station would allow study of the Earth, its atmosphere and its oceans with the help of a spaceborne video-computer.

Terrier at the heels of Whitehall

As John Bourn starts work as the new man charged with making sure that the Government spends our money properly, David Walker reports on the job that had a high profile under Sir Gordon Downey

Today John Bourn takes over a job worth £150 billion. He becomes Comptroller and Auditor General in charge of 900 staff whose task it is to supervise that sum — money voted by Parliament as public expenditure.

Bourn, aged 53, is a career civil servant, from the Ministry of Defence. He is used to working behind closed doors, keeping the bodies well hidden. But Sir Gordon Downey, from whom he takes over, has given the team of investigators in the National Audit Office a high profile in their struggle to rack down what actually happens to the billions spent by Whitehall on the public's behalf.

In 1983 the old Victorian Exchequer and Audit Department was wound up and Bourn — who had become comptroller in 1981 — supervised the establishment of the NAO as a modern accounting unit. Under him, the NAO's purpose has been clarified: to ensure that public money is spent as Parliament decrees.

"Parliament still has some way to go in securing full accountability for the use of taxpayers' money," Downey announced when he announced his retirement, adding: "They could increasingly rely on the professionalism and experience of the NAO."

Although he too had come on the civil service, he was reported to annoy his former colleagues by issuing a stream of sharply-worded reports on their spending habits and insisting that senior officials answer in public for their actions. Downey's reports have all been public, except for those covering the NAO's routine of certain defence projects, and have covered virtually every nook and cranny of Government spending, except for the Security Service, though Downey has indicated he would be keen to have a look at MI5's books, too.

He annoyed the politicians when the NAO said British Telecom shares had cost too much to float and that British

Airways had been sold too cheaply. The unions did not like his criticisms of delays in constructing the Cullinport submarine base on the Clyde. The charities were not especially keen on waspish comment in an NAO report which said the public had no way of knowing if their donations were being used wisely.

Most of all, civil servants, especially those in the Ministry of Defence, have had scant reason to welcome NAO reports which have often criticized management failures. A year ago, however, Downey praised the Government's Financial Management Initiative, saying Whitehall was well on its way to becoming more efficient.

The Comptroller and Auditor General is an ancient office. He answers to the chairman of the all-party House of Commons Public Accounts Committee and the legislature. And Parliament, Downey says, "does not yet have the degree of accountability from the executive that it should expect. MPs are not as fully aware of the desirability of that happening as I would like to see."

What Parliament and the public need above all, Downey says, is information — about how and why the Treasury, or the Arts Council, or the Driver Vehicle Licensing Centre operate as they do, and why they spend as much as they do. Under him, the NAO's stock in trade has become its distinctive green-covered documents, of which some 50 were issued in the past year, detailing where the money goes — and where it does not come in.

So the NAO has investigated the failure of departments to charge enough, and collect the amount of tax owing. It recently extended its remit to cover preventive spending — for example by the National Health Service on screening for disease that could save on hospital spending.

In offices carved from the old airways terminal in Victoria, the NAO has become a

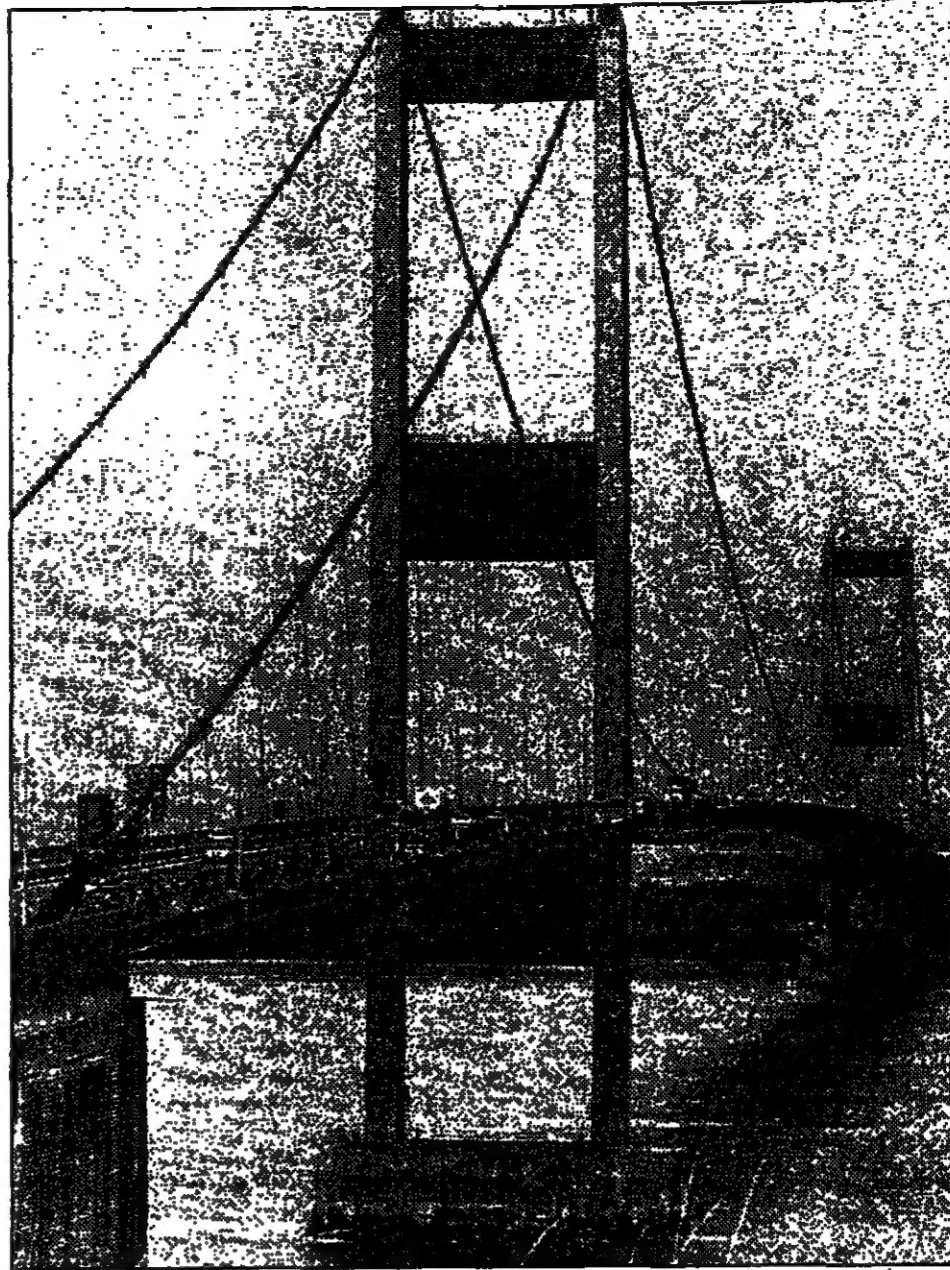
more professional outfit with more than 200 staff with a recognized accountancy qualification and another 280 high quality graduates receiving professional training — paid above the going Whitehall rates.

But bringing the NAO up to strength has not been plain sailing. The Treasury, by tradition the controller of public expenditure, has resented the liveliness displayed by the NAO. It even tried, last year, to put its own auditors in to monitor the NAO's books. Some of the NAO's reports form the basis of investigations by the Public Accounts Committee, which can compel civil servants to come before it. But backbench MPs have been unwilling to do their homework, and follow up the NAO's reports by asking whether departments are acting on its recommendations.

The NAO has rivals. The Audit Commission was set up in 1981 by the then Environment Secretary Michael Heseltine as a vehicle for bringing business methods into local government; it also runs the district audit service to oversee the accounts kept by local authorities in England and Wales (with a separate body for Scottish councils). With the take-over by central government of housing and education, the Audit Commission and the NAO are arguing about who should get the job of monitoring the books of opted-out schools or housing action trusts.

Mrs Thatcher, who as Prime Minister is head of the executive, is in favour of good housekeeping but, paradoxically, none too keen on giving Parliament the power to investigate how well her ministers are keeping house. By law the appointment of the Prime Minister and the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mrs Thatcher is not known for accepting recommendations she does not like, and Labour MP Robert Sheldon, present committee chairman, did not — as he might have



SEVERN BRIDGE: Losses are mounting — the bridge (above), was supposed to have repaid its construction costs within 40 years of its opening in 1966. The National Audit Office reported in April that by 2006 losses will amount to £338 million in current prices. The only remedy is a toll increase.

DEFENCE MINISTRY: Civilians employed by the Army to search for unexploded shells on test firing, systematically pocketed at least £203,416. The NAO reported in October that 89 searches had defrauded the ministry on expense claims and ticked off civil servants for not pressing criminal charges. The MCO said it was trying as hard as it could to recover the money.

B A: A quick sale of British Airways to boost the privatization programme cost taxpayers £300 million, the NAO said last July. The Department of Transport set too low a share price.

done — invite his Parliamentary colleagues to submit names. Does that mean she chose, in John Bourn, a quiet official who was not going to rock the boat?

Bourn is an unknown quantity. Whether he follows Downey's lead and takes an active, public role in keeping tabs on public spending depends on whether Robert Sheldon and the Public Accounts Committee push him into it. Beyond that, the power of the C & AG rests on the willingness of the public to take a detailed interest in what is done, and spent, in its name.

Bourn has a strong precedent to live up to. Downey showed that the Comptroller need observe none of Whitehall's little deities, and most important of all he is not bound by its code of absolute

TRoubled WATERS

CHARITIES: Last June the NAO said the register maintained on the public's behalf by the Charities Commission is hopelessly unreliable and out of date. The public's confidence that registration ensures proper use of money donated to charity is increasingly ill-founded. There is "disturbing evidence" of a growth in the extent of criminal fraud in connection with charities.

DHSS: The Department does not know how much it is paying out under more than 30 separate headings in the social security budget, the NAO reported a year ago. It knew it had spent £26.5 billion but did not know whether the money had gone on supplementary benefit or contributory benefits financed by the National Insurance Fund.

secrecy, including secrecy about waste and inefficiency. According to Downey, like all good watchdogs the NAO has not had to bark in order to frighten the burglars. He said: "The simple prospect of a published and independent examination often prompted government departments to improve for themselves their own economy and effectiveness."

TRANSPORT: Drivers are evading Vehicle Excise Duty to the tune of £29 million a year — 4 per cent of the total due — a level which is "unacceptably high", the NAO said in May 1986. One cause was inadequate penalties: the Department of Transport should press for more realistic fines.

NHS: In a pioneering report on preventive medicine two years ago the NAO, concerned about lack of spending by the National Health Service that could prevent future outbreaks, censured 15 English health districts for failing to make any plans for screening women for cervical cancer. It noted that the screening programme in place had had no significant effect upon the death rate.

FORESTRY COMMISSION: It needs to do very little new planting of trees, the NAO warned a year ago, noting that since 1946 £2,058 million had been spent on nationalized forests (500,000 hectares) but they are only worth £7,452 million.

counts Committee push him into it. Beyond that, the power of the C & AG rests on the willingness of the public to take a detailed interest in what is done, and spent, in its name. Bourn has a strong precedent to live up to. Downey showed that the Comptroller need observe none of Whitehall's little deities, and most important of all he is not bound by its code of absolute

Holmes back on the trail of killers

Detectives investigating the murders of three girls have hi-tech help with a famous name, reports Stewart Tendler

The child murder bureau on the third floor of Bradford police station could pass for the electronic heart of a City firm. There are no police uniforms among the rows of operators clicking the keyboards of 50 VDUs or sifting tons of paperwork.

But if the operators lift their heads the purpose of their computerized endeavour stares at them from a flicker of police posters on the wall. The bureau, created a year ago, is the heart of the nationwide hunt for the man or men behind the deaths of Susan Maxwell, aged 11; Caroline Hogg, aged 5, and Sarah Harper, aged 10.

The three children were abducted in 1982, 1983 and 1986 from, respectively, a border village, the outskirts of Edinburgh and a Yorkshire street. Their bodies were later found in a triangle of Midlands countryside.

At Bradford a team consisting of 38 police from six forces

Harper inquiry followed the new paperwork system and used Holmes.

Superintendent Ian Robinson, one of the country's experts on Holmes and the head of the bureau, intends eventually to computerize 42,656 statements, a nominal index of more than 105,000 names, a list of more than 90,000 addresses, 15,000 telephone numbers and a large range of other specialized indices.

The computer, with a capacity of one gigabyte or 100 million words, will hold separate records on each of the cases whilst allowing for interrogation across the whole range of material. The system includes an "exceptional reporting" feature — every time a name is put into the system the computer will report whether it has appeared before. The manual system for the Yorkshire Ripper inquiry failed to show that Peter



From left: Caroline Hogg, Susan Maxwell and Sarah Harper

with 24 civilian typists are pooling the details of the three investigations into one computerized form which may yield the vital leads that Britain's longest running active murder inquiry needs.

The six forces involved in the murder hunt — Lothian and Borders, Leicestershire, Northumbria, West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire — agreed to create the biggest computerized incident room British police have seen. So far it has cost £266,000 including £311,000 for the computer and running costs of £15,000 per week.

Bradford is the high altar of police faith in the computer system called HOLMES, Home Office Large Major Enquiry System, which will shortly be adopted by every force in the country.

Holmes gives police the ability to build up huge indexes, store statements and provide free text retrieval. Ask the system for any mention of a suspect — say a red-haired man driving a blue Ford — and the computer will come back with the answer in seconds.

West Yorkshire houses the bureau partly because Sarah Harper disappeared from Morley, but also because of local computer expertise. Roundly criticized in the aftermath of the Yorkshire Ripper inquiry for its ponderous manual investigations, the force is now a countrywide leader on Holmes.

In Bradford, Holmes is combining three different inquiries, each done in a different way. The Maxwell inquiry was conducted with a manual index; the Hogg inquiry used a new standard system for police paperwork and made partial use of computer software; while the

Satchell's name kept recurring.

The bureau is divided into a translation room where typists put statements into the computer, a store for manual records, an indexing room and a research room. Each week furniture vans have carted filing cabinets of material up from the Midlands and down from Scotland. The Maxwell inquiry alone generated more than seven tons of paperwork. So much, in fact, that West Yorkshire police had to call in architects to check that the floors could take the strain. To be on the safe side, all the material is stored round the edge of the rooms. As the work of computerizing the records

continues 14 hours a day, five days a week, officers in the research room check out the leads thrown up utilizing computer links to Edinburgh, Leeds and Stafford. Fifty detectives round the country work with the research room. Hector Clark, a highly successful detective and now both deputy chief constable of Lothian and Borders and head of the investigation, admits the hunt gets more difficult day by day but he is still optimistic. Even the oldest case, the death of Susan Maxwell five years ago, has recently produced material which could be important.

In October this year the complete computer file, held on about 10 discs of tape, will be finished. The research room will contain but the future of the rest of the suite is undecided. It may become a national bureau for child sex or murder offences or the records may be placed on the Police National Computer to be activated if and when there is another murder.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1453

ACROSS
1 Deep dish (6)
2 Infant (4)
3 Answer (5)
4 Volume (7)
11 Aircraft strut (8)
13 Rudder support (4)
15 So-called (3,6)
18 Den (4)
19 St Anne's Channel island (3)
22 Skill (7)
23 Abundant stream (5)
24 At a great distance (4)
25 Wander (6)
DOWN
2 Mature (5)
3 No (3)
4 Artificial kidney (13)
5 Silly mistake (4)
6 Breast of beef (7)
7 Seed furrow (5)
10 Irritable (4)
12 Wicked (4)
14 Hand beckoning (4)
15 Slide benefit (4-3)
16 Radar pip (4)
17 Welsh, Cornish, Bretons (5)
20 Umbilicus (5)
21 Low dam (4)
22 Male gypsy (3)

SATURDAY'S JUMBO CONCISE CROSSWORD SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Brenda Bir Braham Shah Dev 16 Employees 17 In- 18 Twelve months 19 Sure footing 20 Film cut 21 Liger 22 Optical 23 Skeddle 24 Chin strap 25 Harbour 26 Erie 27 Ex- 28 Ticked 29 Tea crockery 30 Main asset 31 Nevils 40 Passion flower 41 Episcopalian 42 Knight Templar 43 Companionship 47 Least 48 Slender 49 Rallentando 51 Integer 53 Asses 54 We- 55 Pelisse 58 Onomatopoeic 61 Throated 63 Lagard 64 Clear 65 Leicester 66 Sans culotte 68 Presentment 69 Chair 70 Danseuses 71 Follow The Yellow Brick Road
DOWN: 2 Inspector 3 Ex officio 4 Dye wool 5 Asses 6 King 7 Blue flame 8 Kindred 9 Antidote 10 Spectacle 11 Advent- 12 Dimples 13 Vinegar 14 Guts to the top 15 Chiropractic 23 Swede 24 Early 27 Rich notes 29 Eminences 31 Candle nut 32 Levantine 34 Asanator 35 Reichstag 36 More rears 37 Sacha 38 Top line up 41 Lemon 42 Wild West theme 44 Kaleidoscope 46 Process 49 Rebel 50 Lucid 52 Righteous 53 Architect 54 Waterfall 55 Legal peer 57 S East Asia 59 Onself 60 Harwell 62 Reinde 63 La- 66 Straw 67 Nadir

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Tonight Lord Shackleton sees a dream nearly realized

Netting a fortune

Last year the Falklands discovered it was about to be rich. For 154 years, life in Britain's windy sheep-farming colony revolved around three meals of mutton a day. Six astonishing months in 1987 showed that the islands could make a fortune from fishing: quite a shock in a country that had never even had a fish-monger.

Lord Shackleton, a former Conservative minister who became a perceptive Falklands adviser to both Labour and Conservative governments, will find a transformed atmosphere when he arrives there tonight.

He could be forgiven for saying: "I told you so." It was Shackleton, son of the intrepid explorer, who recommended in two celebrated reports, in 1976 and 1982, the step which has caused the boom: the declaration of a fishing zone. Successive governments refused to listen until 1987. Now he is going back to see what happened when his ideas were at least partly implemented.

The gross national product of the Falklands last year was triple that of 1986, entirely because of the fishing zone. Foreign fishermen were brought under control and obliged to pay licence fees.

Enormous projects are under way to create a Falklands/British squid-fishing industry and at the same time provide foreign fishermen with a host of services. Prospects are so bright that the Falkland Islands Development Corporation has just commissioned a macro-economic report on what to do with the money. The tiny population has to decide whether it wants full exploitation of the fishing industry and



Lord Shackleton: slightly in love with the Falklands rapid immigration, or slower growth coupled with a huge "rainy day fund" of foreign investments.

The sleepy, change-resistant attitudes that caused so many negative British comments during the 1982 war are disappearing. Nearly 80 per cent of the men have at least one job, and many have two.

And many former farm labourers have become farm owners, thanks to the purchase and re-distribution of big farms. Shackleton proposed the compulsory purchase of the Falkland Islands Company, the largest landowner, and still regrets that it was not done. But overall he is greatly encouraged.

In his cluttered London office, embellished by framed photographs of his father's ship *Endurance*, caught (and later crushed) in Antarctic ice floes in 1915, Lord Shackleton says of officialdom's slow conversion to the cause: "The Government were anxious not to stick their necks out. I do think they should have acted sooner." He thinks the For-

eiga Office was mainly concerned about the international repercussions.

Lord Shackleton, a genial silver-haired man of 76 who likes to wear the Arctic Club tie (polar bears on a navy background), admits to being just a bit in love with the Falklands. Yet there will be times this week when his thoughts will drift 800 miles away to the east. He would love to go to South Georgia, where his father is buried; he calls it the most beautiful place in the world.

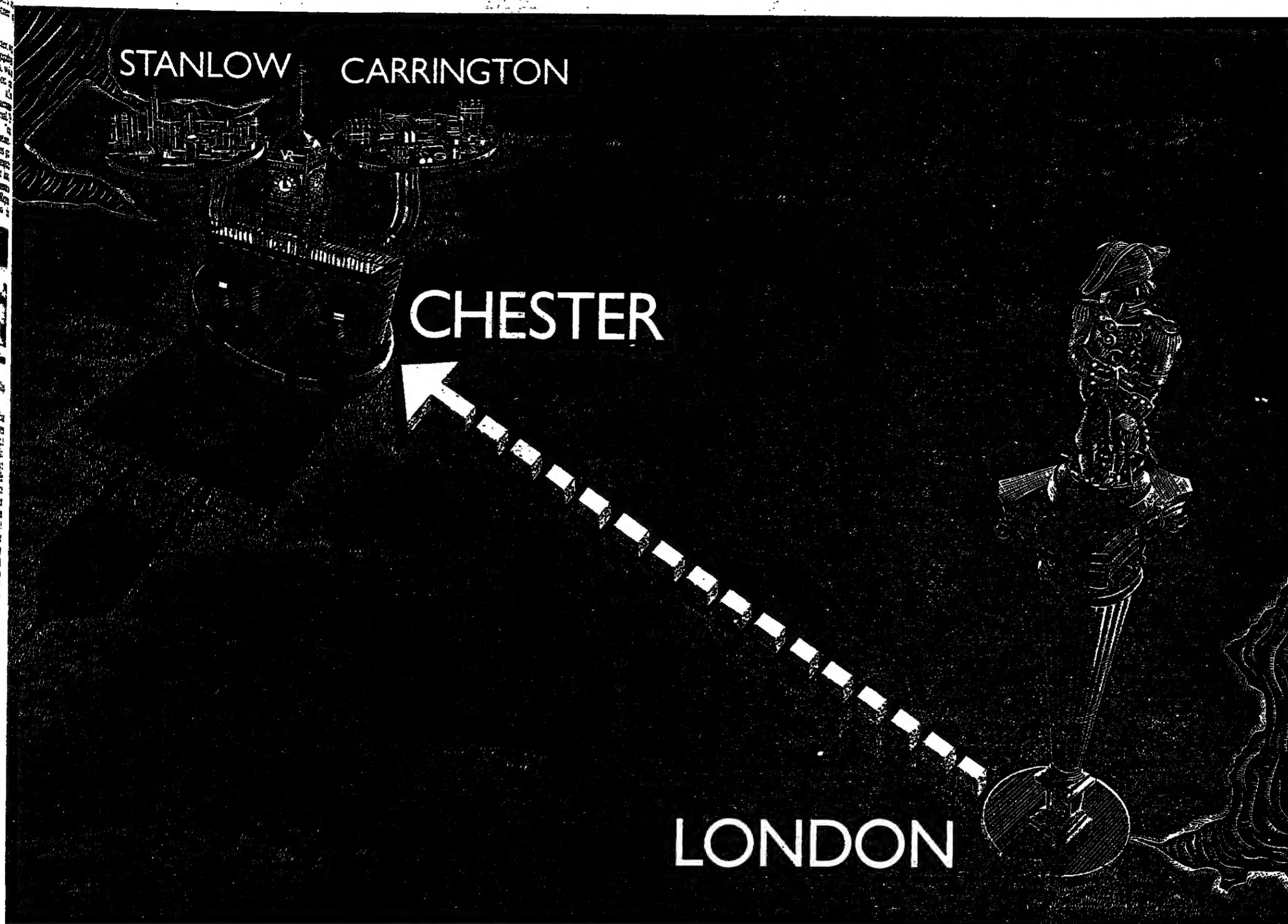
Sir Ernest Shackleton landed there in 1916 after an incredible voyage in a small boat to fetch help to rescue the stranded crew of the *Endurance*. Ernest died there during another voyage in 1922. Its other claim to fame is that Argentinian "scrap metal merchants" made it the flashpoint for the 1982 Falklands war.

Whitehall is against applying the fishing zone idea to South Georgia, saying it would yield little revenue, because the fish there are less valuable than those in Falklands waters. Britain has decided to rely on a 23-nation body called CCAMLR (Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) to prevent over-fishing, but Lord Shackleton is not impressed: "I don't see CCAMLR succeeding," he said.

He also considers South Georgia as potentially more important than the Falklands, partly as a British presence to deter threats to the Antarctic Treaty. "I want the British down there — we can have a stabilizing influence," he said.

Andrew McEwen

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THE TIMES DIARY

Short-order chef

The French chef who made headlines around the world (PHS November 30) claiming to have been chosen by Nancy Reagan to cook for the Washington summit, has been cruelly exposed. Solange Gardillou's local paper in the Dordogne has revealed her story to have been a soufflé of wishful thinking. Madame Gardillou and her husband, who run the celebrated Moulin du Roc at Champagnac de Belair, said they had been invited to lay on the feast after Mrs Reagan sampled their fare at the John McEnroe-Tatum O'Neal wedding in Florida. But both triumphs, the paper says, were merely confessions of the Gardillou imagination; on each occasion the couple were simply visiting the US as tourists. *Sud-Ouest's* news editor, whose revelation has ended weeks of gossip in surrounding villages, says the restaurant's reputation was in no need of embellishment: "Ca nous étonne." This weekend, as the White House confirmed that the summit menu was prepared by its staff chef, Madame Gardillou was too busy in the kitchen to come to the phone.

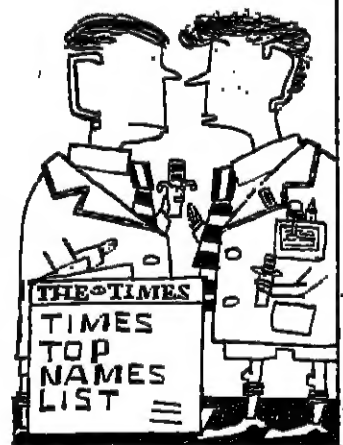
As the BBC still battles with the government for the right to transmit its Radio 4 series on espionage, I hear Broadcasting House has renamed it *My Country* Wright or Armstrong.

Honorable men

Buried in the small print of last week's New Year's Honours list lies a tribute to the Conservative Research Department. Its director since 1985, Robin Harris, has landed the CBE for "political and public service" and his deputy, A.B. (Alistair) Cooke, the OBE. The cockpit of Tory policy-making from 1945-51 and 1964-70, the department seemed in danger of declining into a secretariat for MPs. Under Harris, however, it has produced pamphlets and briefings at a furious rate and is currently working on inner-city policy. Harris, who was thanked in Norman Tebbit's valediction at the party conference, was also part of the small group that included Lord Young and the PM's political adviser, Stephen Sherbourne, which drafted the June election manifesto. Harris's predecessor as director, Peter Cropper, now Nigel Lawson's special adviser, significantly also won the CBE.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, whom everyone knows cannot be relied upon to keep hold of his trousers, should watch it when he visits Moscow in the next few weeks. City police report that snatch and van street thieves have been getting away with scores of Shapkas, or fur hats. As the winter deepens, so the incidence of hatless Moscovites crying "we wuz vibbed" increases.

BARRY FANTONI



My school report was hopeless, but after cheered up when I reminded him I was called James!

Ironed out

I learn of a flurry of activity at Southwark Council's electoral registration office when a form arrived signed Margaret Thatcher, bearing a hoax, officers sent it back to the Dulwich address for confirmation accompanied by the standard form: please call in at the offices between 9.30 and 4.30 from Monday to Friday. A swift response arrived from Downing Street, requesting a visit. While he department's manager, Ken Marshall, said dealings with individual electors were confidential, 10 was more forthcoming, logos prime ministerial signatures are apparently common, no action by wary recipients should be commended as properly circumspect.

Tower tunnel

For 700 years the stone walls of the Tower of London have stood proud and unchallenged, roof against traitors attempting to get out and mobs trying to lambast in. Now, however, anyone would think Edward IV's and work was no longer adequate to safeguard the Crown jewels: in the middle of the tower's most a wire fence has appeared. The Colditz touch has, I am, been added by the Docklands Light Railway, whose engineers are digging tunnels beneath. Alarmingly enough, it seems that — despite all assurances — the tower's keepers want to keep people well away from the walls in use, as the burrowing continues deep below, they collapse.

PHS

Closing a door marked disabled

by Alfred Morris

In a recent series of articles, *The Times* spelt out the unmet needs of Britain's 5.5 million disabled people and their carers. It is a story of the extra burdens still imposed on people who are already handicapped by physical, mental or sensory impairment.

Yet their main concern, as 1988 begins, is not that old injustices will persist but that new wrongs will soon be inflicted. In particular, they and their organizations are deeply concerned that when the Social Security Act 1986 takes full effect in April many disabled people will lose their independence. They will have to abandon hope of living in their own homes and accept institutional care.

It is estimated that up to 18 per cent of newly disabled people under 65 claiming after April (and up to 45 per cent of newly disabled pensioners) will be between £1 and £50 a week worse off. The new Act scraps the supplementary benefits scheme — under which payments for special needs such as laundry, special diets, clothing, heating, and domestic assistance are available — and replaces it with Income Support and the Social Fund. Yet the Disablement Income Group

has shown that most disabled people now on supplementary benefit rely for some 20 to 30 per cent of their incomes on special needs payments.

Other organizations such as the Royal National Institute for the Blind have given ministers examples of cases in which swinging losses will be incurred, with no right of appeal.

One example is that of a husband and wife who are pensioners. The husband has Parkinson's disease and circulation problems. His wife has severe arthritis and respiratory difficulties. They receive £103.05 a week, including help with laundry, heating costs and domestic assistance. From next April, as new claimants, a similar couple will be £42.90 a week worse off. They would have to seek care in an institution or, more probably, apart from each other in separate institutions. Either way, if independent living is impossible, the taxpayer will have to pay more for their institutional care.

It will not only be newly

disabled people who will lose. Sharon, aged 26, suffers from spina bifida and hydrocephalus and uses a wheelchair. She lives in a residential home run by her local authority and has been making plans to live independently in sheltered accommodation. A place is available but the flat is not yet adapted for her. Although desperate to gain her independence she is now afraid she will not, for in April her weekly entitlement of £120 under the supplementary benefits scheme will drop to £70. The new scheme threatens to trap her in an institution.

Her reaction is shared by many other disabled young people now seeking to leave long-stay hospitals and other institutions, in line, as they were led to believe, with the government's concern to promote community care.

Their feelings were put to me recently in a letter from another disabled young woman who lives in Penryn, South Wales: "I never thought I would see the day when disabled people will be punished simply for being dis-

abled and by a government that promised to target help on those most in need... It is both cruel and wrong to hit the weakest and most vulnerable in society, just because we can't fight back."

The Minister for the Disabled, Nicholas Scott, admitted to the Commons more than two months ago that "by moving next year to a system of income support, people who would otherwise have received many additional requirements will receive less benefit than their predecessors at the moment." And he undertook to address the problem of those affected. Since then nothing has been done and we are now three months away from a system that is both inhumane in its treatment of severely disabled people and illogical for the taxpayer.

The disabled want to be a part of and not apart from society. That is why they are reacting so bitterly to the government's intransigence and why they deserve the help of MPs on both sides of Parliament in fighting back.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, and was Britain's first Minister for the Disabled, 1974-79.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

By the word divided

The Campaign for Plain English provides much merit. Its founders and organizers realized early on that to commend and encourage the writing of good English was not enough, particularly where publicity (on which any such body must rely) was concerned. This wicked world being what it is (viz. wicked), few column inches would be devoted, in most newspapers, to the news that the Market Harborough Watch Committee or the Prudential had put out a statement in intelligible, and even grammatical, English; what the campaigners had to do to gain attention was to publicize examples of officially promulgated bad prose. Every year, therefore, they hold a ceremony at which wooden spoons are liberally distributed among those who have sinned against our tongue; some of the verbiage thus denounced is so grotesque that if I did not have complete faith in the directors of the campaign I would suspect them of making it up.

But they have included in their most recent roll of dishonour an item which has implications far beyond the salutary castigation of bad English: that the campaign meets out; it sums up something much more significant about our society. It comes from the department of community affairs in the local government of a London borough, and here it is:

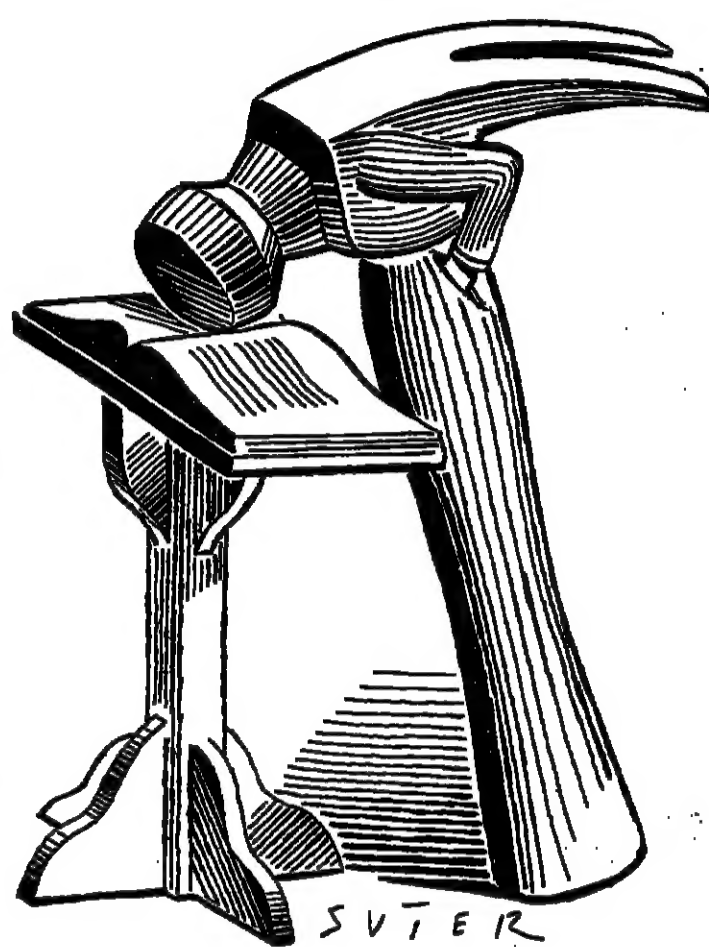
Community Affairs delivers decentralized services with specific targeting and outreach techniques to achieve manifesto objectives. The front line interface with the public and community groups provides a catalyst input to services across the council, supporting initiatives in priority areas.

Illiteracy, these days, is nothing to be surprised about. The interest, and the significance, of the item lies in the particular kind of illiteracy displayed. Ever since the English language was created there have been dreadful and murderous assaults upon it by people who didn't know how to use it; but until very recently — I think only some 30 years ago — this form did not, and could not, exist. All language, after all, reflects the minds of those who use it, and it is only yesterday that people's minds began to work like that.

Let us look at the passage more closely. It contains 39 words. Of these, 11 are inert or neutral, being only auxiliary terms — conjunctions, articles, etc. The remaining 28 either mean nothing whatever (outreach, interface), or mean nothing as here used (targeting, community, input, across, front line, areas), or can mean anything that any reader might take them to mean (techniques, objectives, initiatives, services, groups, priority, supporting), or are largely tautological (affairs, manifesto, provides, delivers, decentralized), or are entirely tautological (specific, public), or have a real meaning which the author cannot be bothered to look up in the dictionary, preferring his or her own imaginary meaning (catalyst).

That leaves "achieve" and "council"; it's not much to show for a 39-word paragraph which is, after all, supposed to be explaining the department's work to those who pay for it. What has happened here? How did we get to the point at which such jabber cannot be seen to be jabber either by those who do the jabbering or by those whose job it is to scrutinize it?

What has happened is the rise to power of



the half-educated. The mark by which you may know the half-educated is their attitude to their own lack of a real education. Half of it is an aggressive certainty that they know all it is necessary and useful for them (or anyone else) to know; the other half is a desperate unease and resentment at the evidence — which is all around them — that they don't really know anything. The combination has a devastating effect on them, and in particular on their vocabulary. The uneducated are content to use their smaller, yet perfectly effective, vocabulary, together with their rudimentary, yet equally satisfactory, instinctive grasp of a working grammar; the educated can deploy a wider knowledge of words and a deeper understanding of the use of them; but the half-educated despise those who have never had their own educational advantages, and are therefore unwilling to limit themselves to a vocabulary and syntax they can understand. The result is inevitable: they try to rise above their own educational station — and in doing so they write that paragraph, and countless more such paragraphs, up and down the land, every day.

What is the most obvious thing about that paragraph? It is that it has never occurred to the author of it to discover what the words mean — not even the ones that do mean something. The author has seen such words in print, and concluded that they are important ones, and therefore thinks that to write a statement largely composed of them is a sign of learning, which will be recognized and applauded and earn credit and respect.

But the author has missed the point twice over: first, it is impossible to write a coherent paragraph by jumbling together, in more or less random order, a series of words conveying no intelligible meaning to the writer, and second, these words, whatever they mean (if anything) are among the most threadbare

cliches the language contains. Repulsive, meaningless English is not the province of only one variety of politics; both the strangled pomposity of the right and the windy falsehoods of the centre are debased and corrupting. But the kind of lifeless jargon that I have quoted is, almost without exception, of the left. And it stands danger, for it implies an attitude which is already to be found in actions, which in any case can never diverge far from the words they are described in.

An impulse to write such rubbish comes from the same mind-set that leads to the removal of books from public libraries on the ground that they are "racist", "sexist", and every other variety of "ist" that intolerance can put its hand to; another is the contempt for the uneducated, who cannot be allowed to make up their own minds as to which books they think fit to read. It is, indeed, the kind of thinking that has led to the most dangerous and fanatically pursued of all the new, half-educated left's yearning, which takes in a vast variety of essentially totalitarian aims, of which book-burning is only one; the drive for uniformity, called equality.

Years ago Kingsley Amis said "More will mean worse". Even in those days he was greeted with howls of execration for suggesting

that not everybody should have the "right" to a university education because not everybody is capable of benefiting from it. Mr Amis's prediction has come true tens of thousands of times over, but even he did not foresee the political dimension in what he was prophesying, the desire of the half-educated to take their revenge on society by restricting society's vision to their own limited horizon.

The dead jargon of that terrible paragraph is not something isolated, to be jeered at and forgotten. It has been encouraged in the universities, in Parliament, in the schools, in broadcasting and newspapers. It is, literally, dehumanized and dehumanizing; it poisons not only our beautiful, infinite and unique language but our national life; when words have been emptied of meaning, meaning itself fades.

There are those who want meaning to fade and die, who tell us that there are no differences between human beings; they would, if they had their way, make all of us live, think and act according to one sterile rule. Such attitudes lie behind the jabber and jargon that fills the air, a perfect demonstration of the fear and hatred of divergence, which is the most precious and the most significant of all our human qualities.

The Campaign for Plain English is concerned to keep our language fresh and unadorned; an admirable ideal. But those in charge of it little know how much more important a task they are engaged upon. Because a language defines a people, the campaign is now charged with the preservation of our national character and our individual identity. In that great cause we shall need all the specific targeting and outreach techniques we can get, if we are to provide a catalyst input supporting initiatives in priority areas. The frontline initiative is nearer than we think.

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Frederick Bonnard on changing German attitudes in the light of the Höfer case

Altered outlooks on the Nazi past

At noon he assembled a group of five journalists from different countries and opposing opinions who discussed problems of the moment over a glass of wine.

The programme always attempted to define a situation by contrasting opposing views, and it normally came to a liberal, open-minded conclusion. Journalists everywhere considered it an honour to be invited on to the programme, although it was a testing experience for them which required complete concentration, strong knowledge of the subject, and the ability to express ideas rapidly and concisely in German. The ball was kept in the air and, whenever it threatened to drop, Höfer intervened ruthlessly and threw it up again. Apart from West Germany it was also broadcast in

Austria, Switzerland and in East Germany, where it had considerable influence. Audience figures ranged up to 100 million in its heyday and more recently have been a respectable 20 million.

Just before Christmas Höfer resigned under pressure after an article in *Der Spiegel* accusing him of being a "desk war criminal" for his journalistic activities in Nazi Germany, and, in particular, for his alleged praise of the execution in 1943 of Karl-Heinz Kretzer, a young pianist who had been condemned to death for defeatist remarks. (Höfer is now appealing against the loss of his position and suing *Der Spiegel* for some £30,000 for defamation.)

But the facts had been known for years. Höfer had, indeed, been a member of the Nazi party since

1933 and a journalist throughout the war. Although his subject was mainly the arts, he had written articles castigating war wavers. After the war he was investigated, forswore his Nazi past, apologized for his errors, and was able to resume his journalistic career. He has always denied writing the offending passages about Kretzer, claiming they had been inserted editorially without his knowledge or approval.

In fact, all the main items of the present accusations against Höfer were made by an East German propagandist as long ago as 1962, when they were clearly a reaction to the power of the programme in the East. But that was still a period when many Germans in positions of responsibility had been involved with the previous regime — Höfer's explanations were accepted.

Werner Höfer will not be one of those names checked in the forthcoming investigations of the UN archives. A journalist may be considered to have a particular responsibility in times of unrest. It is perhaps this fact that led the directorate of the WDR network to adopt what many consider an inelegant way of terminating a brilliant career.

T.E. Utley

Larger zones of enterprise

There is a vast distinction, very important to current political discussion, between the concept of greed and that of materialism. The crux of the charge made against Mrs Thatcher by bishops and the like is that she is trying to foster a society in which greed will be the principal motive of human activity, in which the rich will grow richer and the poor will grow poorer and in which selfishness will prevail.

This is an absurd charge, and one the absurdity of which I think is now generally recognized. The government disburses immense sums of money every year for the purpose of redistributing wealth. Moreover, the assumption of the charge — that all privately acquired wealth is used exclusively for the satisfaction of those who have made it — is clearly untrue. The argument that "Thatcherism" stands for "a free-for-all" in which the weak go to the wall no longer seems to the public to be in the least cogent.

But can Mrs Thatcher's third administration be equally acquitted of the charge of "materialism"? Materialism is the view that the supreme object of life is the creation of material wealth — wealth which may be distributed widely or which may simply be stored up and preserved as a symbol of national grandeur. Materialism in itself has nothing to do with equality or inequality. Its premise is simply that the indefinite expansion of the national product, or, as it is so aptly described, the gross national product, is a good thing in itself, indeed the best thing. Materialism regards hard work to this end as an intrinsic virtue. But is work of any kind intrinsically virtuous? After all, the need to labour at all was imposed by Almighty God on Adam as a punishment for his having originated original sin.

One can imagine a society (indeed, for a long time one has lived in such a society) whose members prefer to remain relatively poor rather than work themselves to the bone to increase the gross national product. They might have other occupations, like gardening, religion, poetry or bowls for which they would like free time. Are they to be permitted the choice?

At the outset of Mrs Thatcher's career as leader of the Tory party I would have thought that they were. She spoke eloquently, and with manifest sincerity, in favour of freedom, not as a mechanism for the production of wealth but as a necessary precondition of moral responsibility. She spoke of the frontiers of the state being reduced, by which she meant that more decisions about the conduct of life would be left to individuals and fewer to bureaucrats.

however... Philip Howard

Mixing their monikers

What's in a name? Well, since you ask, quite a lot. That which we call a rose would not smell quite so sweet if it were called cucumber or garlic. Norma Jean Baker, *qua* name, does not glitter; so she was renamed Marilyn Monroe by a casting agent, as an echo of Marilyn Miller (who was born Mary Ellen Reynolds, the musical star of the Twenties. Greta Lovisa Gustafsson tried many pseudonyms, including Harriet Brown, until she hit on Greta Garbo, which was so glamorous that she never succeeded in her ambition of being left alone again).

Bronco is the Spanish for rough, and the name of an untamed mustang. But the manufacturers of the toilet paper hit upon the powerful name by accident, since it is a shortening of the boring fact that the company originally made two types of paper, named British No 1 and British No 2. On the other hand Andrex sounds as though it echoes the Greek for manliness, with the suffix -ex to give the prestige flavour of a classical origin. In fact it got the name because it was originally made in 1945 by a small firm in St Andrews Road, Walthamstow, which first used the less potent name of Androl.

Eric the Red discovered a barren rock on an expedition westwards around 982 BC. He named his discovery Greenland, on the marketing principle that he would be able to attract colonists there if the place had an attractive name. We still use the principle of nominal disingenuousness today, which is why it is rare in the south of England to find anybody living in a numbered house, in something called a street.

The English class system decrees that it is common to live in a number. Accordingly, in urban deserts of brick and concrete there are no streets, only avenues, closes, groves, drives, crescents, vales and lanes. And the terraced houses are not numbered, but given grandly unsuitable names like Alhambra, on the romantic notion that an Englishman's home is his Moorish castle. It makes life hell for the postman and for visitors from north of the river trying to find their way around Surbiton. They are more straightforward in the North, where they are not ashamed to call a street a street, and to live in No 51.

Personal names are dynamite. Hardened by my trade to misprints, I am still momentarily pained when I am addressed as Phillip spelt in the illiterate way with a double "f". When Jean

This is not now quite the dominant theme in Tory circles. Freedom is still exalted, but it is chiefly exalted as a means to increasing industrial output. The accountants are in charge. There is talk of the need to "create an enterprise culture" (what a fantastically *disgraceful* ideal) and there is an evident intention to bend the education system to this end.

The most conspicuous victims of this campaign are the universities. Professor Eric Kedourie, in a pamphlet published by the Centre for Policy Studies which deserves to become a classic, mounts a devastating criticism of that part of Mr Baker's education bill relating to higher education.

Under the provisions of the bill, as Lord Beloff has also argued, almost the last vestiges of academic independence will disappear. The government will determine what is and what is not valuable research, how many places shall be reserved for art undergraduates and how many for science undergraduates, and it will all be done in the interest of ensuring that the universities serve the need of the community. The needs of the community? Who decides what they are? Why, the government, of course. Who ever thought that this last proposition was one to which Mrs Thatcher would eventually subscribe?

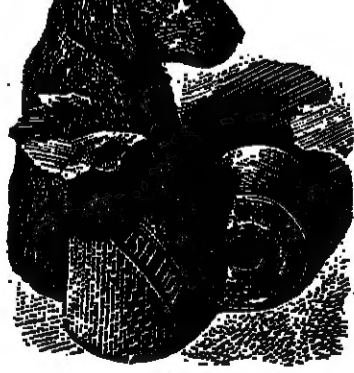
Innumerable opportunities have been missed, in the matter of university education, to return power to parents and prospective undergraduates. Student loans are the most conspicuous omission. Tax exemptions for parental contributions is another. From this kind of "radicalism" this "radical" Tory government has shrunk as from the plague.

Paradoxically, none of this dirigisme will greatly promote the cause which it is intended to serve — the expansion of national wealth. Technology lives on the results of natural science, on discoveries made accidentally and unpredictably by people whose only aim is the pursuit of truth. I recall the late Denis Brogan's judgement that we won the war largely because German scientists had for years been ordered to produce specific results advantageous to the military might of Germany, whereas British scientists had been allowed to do what they wanted.

I do not believe that it is too late to recall Mrs Thatcher to her original belief in freedom as a virtue in itself, not as a means of producing "the good society" as it is conceived by some of her colleagues. But this education bill is a test case, and some of its clauses should be powerfully and ruthlessly resisted.

Harlow, the platinum-blond American movie star, met Margot Asquith for the first time, she addressed her by her Christian name, and added insult to insolence by pronouncing it as though it rhymed with "carrot". Lady Asquith corrected her: "My dear, the 'r' is silent, as in *Harlow*."

When the Conservatives were returned to power in 1951, Duff Cooper was made a viscount. His



Chris Wormald

wife, the daughter of a duke, was underwhelmed at the prospect of becoming a mere viscountess. She put forward various frivolous suggestions for the traumatic change of name (always a tricky time for new peers, as can be seen by the way most of them now merely turn their surnames into titles with geographical genitives to distinguish them) — Lord Ladydiana, Unicorn, Lackland, Sausage, Erewash, St. Firmin, and so on. Without consulting her, Duff settled for Viscount Northwick. This did not meet with Diana's approval at all. She said she would even have preferred Porridge. Duff retorted: "A little Northwick is a dangerous thing."

But she still wanted to be known as Lady Diana Cooper rather than Viscountess Northwick. If you are born today, the saints whom your parents can choose to echo are the unlikely band of Rigobert, Rumon, Titus, Gregory, Elizabeth Seton and Roger of Eilat, the English Cistercian who was a good man in the NHS of the 12th century. Elizabeth and all its variants are beautiful names. But Roger, the old Germanic name, seems jolly naïf, from Roger Bacon to Roger Moore, and from Roger and Out to the Jolly Roger. And there are those rugby songs about Roger the Lodger. I should settle for Titus, or Cucumber.



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MAKING THE LORDS WORK

The House of Lords has recently assigned to itself a role far more important than its wildest admirers could have hoped for or its most bitter critics could have feared. It does not, in the immediate sense, determine the fate of governments; but it is capable of being an immense nuisance to them.

This is something which Mrs Thatcher has already discovered and which, when contentious legislation in the present session comes up, she may well discover again. It is natural, therefore, that politicians on both left and right should be concerned to ensure that the composition of the House will be such as to enable their respective cases to be stated more effectively than they are at present.

What is needed for this is a good and continually refreshed supply of working peers — men and women with the experience and vitality to do what has become an extremely heavy job. Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Labour peers, wants the Prime Minister to adopt the practice of creating "working peers" annually, instead of intermittently. He may well win the support of Lord Whitlaw for the proposal. There are, however, difficulties in its way.

Those who accept working peerages must be able and willing to work. Lord Cledwyn has, in this respect, achieved remarkable success in his nominations. The Tories have suffered some disappointments in theirs. A working peer should ideally be a man or woman of proven ability in middle life. The financial incentives offered to him or her are by no means glittering — a right to claim modest expenses for sustenance, minimum secretarial help and, where necessary, travel and accommodation. If he, or she, is the principal of a university or college or an eminent QC, the financial sacrifices involved in ennoblement must be harsh.

The House does not cost the country much (certainly vastly less than the Commons does) and the Treasury could afford to pay more for their Lordships' services. But there would be a public outcry if such remuneration were to be distributed equally to working peers and non-working peers. Those who owe their membership to inheritance and those who have been granted it as a reward for long and exhausting service elsewhere (and who can be pardoned for regarding it as a badge of honour designed to sweeten their retirement, or as the means of access to an excellent club) should not be treated more generously than they are at present. A far sharper distinction would have to be drawn between working and non-working peers.

INTO AFRICA

Mrs Thatcher flies to Africa today for a visit which is long overdue. It will be her first to the continent since she entered office in 1979 — apart from her attendance at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting (Chogom) at Lusaka later that year. In such circumstances one might have thought that her arrival would be welcomed on all sides. The fact that it has been preceded by controversy must therefore raise fundamental questions about Britain's relations with its former colonies.

The visit originated at the Vancouver Chogom in October, when President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya invited her to Nairobi, in return for the week he spent in Nairobi last March. Her aides immediately began trying to put together a more substantial tour — but found their task more difficult than expected. It took six weeks before Nigeria, reportedly under diplomatic pressure, made known that Mrs Thatcher could go there too.

Any British Prime Minister visiting black Africa for the first time, might well begin with Kenya and Nigeria, representing the East and West coasts as they do. The former has long been regarded as a model of post-colonial government on the continent. Kenya's future looks more clouded than it did, following criticism from Amnesty International and elsewhere over human rights (which has brought President Moi into confrontation with the Western press), border clashes with Uganda and concern over its medium-term economic prospects. Even so, Kenya still looks more stable, prosperous and free than most other countries in Africa.

If Kenya is a successful country which looks slightly less secure than it did, Nigeria is an unsuccessful one where things are beginning to look up. Since coming to power in 1983 at the head of a military government, President Ibrahim Babangida has been trying to restore

All this is perfectly practicable, but it does not entirely remove the difficulties. Some of them are inherent in the very institution of life peers. A life peer may be young and active at the outset of his Lords career, but he will not be spared the ravages of time. Eventually, he also will join the ranks of those who are entitled to a quiet life. More seriously, perhaps, he may choose to remain active long after he has lost the power to be efficiently so, thereby adding to that burden of dead wood which the Upper Chamber is thought by its critics to carry already.

We are said to live in an age of radical reform. Would there be anything too radical for the Prime Minister in a measure designed to create working peers not for life, but for specific periods — two parliaments, or 10 years, for instance? Hereditary peerages could remain and there would be no obstacle to awarding "leisurely" life peerages to aged politicians and retired civil servants.

Meanwhile, there is no substitute for the most dependable kind of life peer — the old Commons hand. The New Year's Honours List contained none. Admittedly, they seem harder to come by than in the past. There are plenty of MPs who would accept a peerage. There are, however, fewer who are nowadays thought prepared to do the work. But if more peerages to MPs were on offer, as they were in the recent past, this number too might increase.

One reason why the offers do not come as often as they used to is the inordinate fear, which governments now have, of by-elections. In these days of excited television coverage, they have been persuaded that there is something called "momentum" which a by-election loss gives their opponents. Between the war and the 1960s, it was rare for governing parties to lose safe seats at by-elections. But the Tories lost Orpington to the Liberals in 1962. Later, by-election phobia really set in when the Opposition gained safe seats from the Government during Lord Wilson's first premiership in the late 1960s — something unprecedented in the post-war world. Governments now fear that no seat is really safe.

The present Government, however, has a huge majority. The opposition parties are a shambles. It is early enough in this Parliament for the Government to recover from any adverse "momentum". It should arrange to make peers of more MPs. Soon it will be mid-Parliament, when by-election phobia might seem justified. But now is the perfect time for the Government to concern itself with the legislature's health rather than its own.

his country's economy to a more even keel. With a series of reforms of which Mrs Thatcher must approve, including the privatisation of state companies, a drive against corruption, the cutting of subsidies on petrol (among other things) and the flotation of Nigeria's currency, he has steered his country towards a slow but painful economic recovery.

He has a long way to go and the road will be difficult. He will need his considerable political skill to survive anticipated opposition to the austerity which lies ahead. But he deserves encouragement as he sets his sights on returning Nigeria to civilian rule by 1992.

Resentment in black Africa over Mrs Thatcher's visit this week arises mainly from her opposition to sanctions against South Africa. One might have thought that Nigeria and, for that matter Kenya, had enough problems of their own to contend with, without becoming involved in a cause to which they can contribute very little. It is Britain who, Lagos intellectuals think should make the sacrifice — however damaging and ineffective this might be.

The apparent ill-feeling however, has reopened the whole question of Britain's relations with some of its former colonies. The French, by retaining more control over Francophone Africa, would seem to have emerged from the same period more successfully. Their own crises may still lie ahead as some of these countries seek to free themselves from the influence of Paris. But there must be lessons for Britain in the closeness of the relationship between France and its old empire in black Africa.

Nigeria and Kenya are important to this country, commercially and politically. If relations are to be marred by needless controversy of this kind, there are grounds for concern in the Foreign Office.

JOB FOR THE AUDITOR

A new Comptroller and Auditor General, Mr John Bourn, takes office today. He has, as the modish phrase puts it, a hard act to follow. Sir Gordon Downey achieved the feat of making auditing not just relevant, but glamorous.

Despite his own background deep in Whitehall, Sir Gordon appreciated that publicity is oxygen and that without it the fires of efficiency in the public sector would soon go out. Under his direction, the National Audit Office's studies of expenditure have become an essential guide.

He appreciated that efficiency cannot be guaranteed by the attentions of those valiant few MPs who interest themselves in the Public Accounts Committee. It requires a continuous sense, on the part of the public at large, that the executive and its employees need to be kept under suspicious gaze. It is to Sir Gordon's credit not only that he made the machinery of the 1983 National Audit Act work, but that he extended the boundaries of value-for-money auditing into such areas as the work of the National Health Service in preventive medicine.

His successor has, it must be said, begun inauspiciously. There was a suspicion late last year that his appointment had been arranged between the Prime Minister and the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, and that minimal effort had been made to collect the fullest range of candidates — from the private as well as the broad public sector — for this

essential position. The Leader of the Opposition should have been consulted, at the very least, if only to ensure that the Comptroller commands the most general confidence.

But it would be wrong to prejudice Mr Bourn as some cat's paw of the executive. Sir Gordon Downey himself was a civil servant who proved able to commit occasional verbal savagery on his former colleagues. So perhaps Mr Bourn too will change his spots. Without the National Audit Office in its present activist mood, the public's confidence in the capacity of the state to manage itself efficiently would have significantly weaker foundations.

If Mr Bourn were minded, he might look back 300 years to find all manner of seventeenth century precedents for asserting the dignity and power of his office. He might also draw on his own inside knowledge of contemporary Whitehall.

The Financial Management Initiative is poised to take a great leap forward with the implementation of Sir Robin Ibbot's unpublished report. Mr John Garrett MP has reasonably suggested that the National Audit Office and a new generation of Whitehall managers work hand in hand: FMI information about expenditure ought to be readily available to the scrutineers of the NAO. The next phase of the initiative should further enhance the capacity of the NAO to follow expenditure and report back to people and Parliament.

Human rights and aid to Ethiopia

From Mrs Margaret Daly, MEP for Somerset and Dorset West (Conservative)

Sir, In your leading article, "Message to Mengistu" (December 31), you correctly identify the intransigent position of the Ethiopian Government's agricultural policies. But there is more to the issue of long-term aid than the simple economics of food production.

The focus of much of the EEC's development effort is the Lomé Convention, a unique trade and aid agreement between the EEC member states and 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, an essential clause of which makes respect for human dignity a condition of long-term aid projects in the Third World.

Thousands of political prisoners are being held without trial in Ethiopia. Not least of these are the 10 members of the former Emperor Haile Selassie's family who have been incarcerated in extreme conditions of squalor and discomfort since the communist revolution in 1974.

Of this mostly female group, whose only crime is their relationship to the former Emperor, the eldest is 76 and may soon become the second to die in custody.

Many African countries who are signatories of the Lomé Convention are rightly concerned that Ethiopia's lack of respect for human rights and dignity diverts attention from the real issues of long-term aid and development.

Indeed, while acting as co-president of the Lomé Convention's EEC-ACP Joint Assembly, the Ethiopian Ambassador begged me to give his country more time before bringing the issue before the public attention.

Last month the European Parliament overwhelmingly approved a resolution charging the Commission to reaffirm in all negotiations that respect for human dignity be recognised by all parties as one of the essential elements of EEC-ACP relations and that continuing offences against human rights must bring into question the continuation of long-term aid. Yours faithfully, M. DALY, The Old School House, Aisholt, Spaxton, Somerset. January 1.

Funding the NHS

From Mr Ralph Instone, Sir, Donald Keating's arguments (December 28) against a further reduction in the top rate of income tax apply with at least equal force to a further reduction in the basic rate.

The only people who would obtain a worthwhile advantage from another cut of 1p or 2p in the basic rate are those whose incomes, whether earned or unearned, are over £30,000, and who have already benefited from other recent tax reductions (including the abolition of the additional tax on non-settled investment income), and from the mitigation of capital gains tax.

Those reductions made social and economic sense. But a further reduction in the basic rate would be expensive, pointless and socially divisive. If it figures in the 1983 Finance Bill, I for one would be ashamed to vote Conservative again. Yours faithfully, RALPH INSTONE, 7 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2. December 29.

From Dr E. Moran, Sir, As Chairman of the National Council on Gambling and a hospital consultant in the NHS, I am concerned about the implications underlying Mary MacKenzie's article, "Save the NHS with a lottery" (December 23).

The arguments about the viability of a national lottery for good causes have been extensively rehearsed. While we already have a

From Mrs Mary Dines

Sir, The attack of Col Mengistu's army, Kassa Kibede, on the British Government for not giving sufficient aid to the Ethiopian Government (report, December 30) is ludicrous, but does give Britain a chance to reassess its response to the situation in the famine areas.

The Ethiopians are using the famine to discredit the Eritreans, hoping that international agencies will be blackmailed into denying assistance to the over one million people who need food in the liberated areas. Having failed to defeat the resistance militarily they are now hoping to starve the population into submission.

Bob Geldof, presumably briefed by Ethiopian Government officials, has inflamed the situation by making emotional statements about crimes against humanity being committed by the Eritreans.

Without the assistance of the West the Ethiopian Government would be forced to use its own resources to tackle food shortages. They have an enormous fleet of lorries which are used solely for the transport of troops and arms, but claim that they have no transport. There are also vast fertile areas not affected by drought, but which are being turned into an ecological disaster by forced resettlement programmes aimed at breaking up the homogeneity of various parts of the country.

We are now talking about saving the region from permanent famine and disaster. The most constructive response of the British Government to the accusations of Mr Kibede, therefore, would be to ensure that the Eritrean question is raised at the United Nations and the Secretary General asked to use his good offices to reach a political solution. At the same time, resettlement programmes should not be suspended.

Yours faithfully, MARY DINES, Secretary, Rights and Justice, 391 City Road, EC1. December 30.

national lottery in the form of football pools, it is highly unlikely that an appreciable amount of additional money would be forthcoming in this way to subsidise any expensive long-term enterprise. Comparisons with countries that do not have football pools are an irrelevance.

Are the future health and welfare of the citizens of this country to be dependent on the exploitation of people's gullibility? If so, what other vital public services are to be considered for such an approach? Education? Defence, perhaps?

Yours faithfully, E. MORAN (Chairman, National Council on Gambling), Chase Farm Hospital, The Ridgeway, Enfield, Middlesex. December 24.

From Sir Thomas Bazley, Sir, Sir Ian Morrow's letter (December 29) equates two very different things, parking spaces and hospital beds. Many people need parking space regularly for the weekly shopping, but how many stay in hospital 52 times a year?

Many of us use parking space in search of entertainment, but how many of us enter hospital in search of pleasure? Yours faithfully, T. S. BAZLEY, Eastleach Down Farm, Nr Eastleach Turville, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. December 29.

unspecifically greater number of tests.

To suppose that this is because fewer people have been drinking and driving is to assume the would-be conclusion as a premise: that accidents are primarily caused by drunken driving. An alternative, and equally probable, explanation is that the greatly increased number of police on the roads administering these tests, and the publicity given to their presence, made people drive more carefully, whilst not drinking

much less. Yours faithfully, ALASTAIR LAING, 24 Aberdeen Road, N5. December 28.

and then by the Acclimatization and Ornithological Society. Pelicans were, in fact, reintroduced in the 1890s.

A pair nested in the park in 1917, but the eggs did not hatch. This failure was not widely publicised; the nation had more serious matters on its mind at the time. The belated revelation of this unhappy event is not a breach of section 2 of the Official Secrets Act.

It has already been leaked in a note I wrote (anonymously) in the 1953-54 report of the above named committee, *Birdlife in the Royal Parks*, published in 1955 by HM Stationery Office. Yours faithfully, W. G. TEAGLE, 41 Bell Street, Herston, Swansage, Dorset. December 20.

Doubts about new-style teachers

From Mr C. G. Johnson

Sir, It is a measure of Mr Baker's desperation that he now seeks to recruit "retired executives" as teachers (report, December 29). He was warned several months ago that his proposals would require a massive increase in the teaching force and that this compounded the problem of large numbers leaving the profession.

If the Government were sincere in their beliefs about market forces, they would have ensured that teaching was still a profession and that the rewards of the job were sufficient to attract good-quality graduates who presently move into other occupations.

As a company director with some involvement in education, I know that conducting large classes of demanding pupils is a strain, both physically and mentally, and that the job is therefore widely regarded as one requiring the vigour of youth. Add to this the fact that the pay and working conditions are much poorer than most businessmen enjoy and it is not hard to see that Mr Baker's recruitment plan will be regarded as an insult.

Yours faithfully, C. G. JOHNSON, 103 Links Road, Cullercoats, North Shields, Tyne and Wear. December 29.

From the General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers

Sir, I refer to your report concerning a proposal by Mr Kenneth Baker to recruit to the teaching profession mature practitioners from other spheres of employment.

It would be a pity if, as forecast in your headline, the proposal gave rise to a storm of protest. Speaking on behalf of a teachers' union with a high proportion of members who have come to teaching from elsewhere, let me say that nothing is more likely to raise the level of commitment to the fundamental skills parents want for their children among the ranks of teachers than an injection of educators who have, before treading the classroom floor,

New year wishes

From the Right Reverend Lord Blanch

Sir, I wonder if you could prevail on your Religious Affairs Correspondent, Mr Clifford Longley, who is an old friend, to make a new year resolution to refrain from any more solemn obituaries for the Church of England — at least until after the event.

All reports down the centuries of its coming demise have so far proved to be premature. The Church at large, though saddened by recent events, can hardly be said to be in a state of panic because of them, and, though properly self-critical, it is in no doubt about its continuing role in the life of the nation. Yours faithfully, BLANCH, House of Lords.

From Mr David Hopkinson, Sir, It is customary at the new year to wish an old friend a blessing. Mine, for the Church of England, would be that the Archbishop of Canterbury should advise her Majesty to dissolve the General Synod after its February meeting until November, 1990. Yours faithfully, D. H. L. HOPKINSON (Church Commissioner and Chairman of the Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance), St John's Priory, Poling, Arundel, Sussex.

Sound progress

From the Chairman of British Telecom

Sir, Your "On This Day" column (December 30) on the opening of a telephone service between London and New York makes one wonder about the so-called "good old days".

The cost of a three-minute call when the service was opened in January, 1927, was £15 — at today's prices this would be equivalent to more than £400! A similar call today, even at peak time, would cost only £2.33 (plus VAT). It can also be dialled direct, saving time and money.

In 1926 doubts were expressed concerning the advantages of the new telephone link over the telegraph, which could produce a reply in five minutes. British Telecom now handles more than three million minutes of telephone calls, television pictures, data, facsimile and telex every day through its intercontinental links. Through direct dialling and international operators, customers can now be connected with more than 600 million telephones world wide.

Progress indeed from the "good old days". Yours faithfully, IAIN VALLANCE, Chairman, British Telecom, British Telecom Centre, 81 Newgate Street, EC1.

A handicap

From Mr John Barnfield

Sir, May I suggest to Mr D. B. Jenkin (December 18) that he should smilingly and momentarily transfer the dog's lead to the lady's hand, so enabling him to use both of his own hands to remove and replace his woolly hat in properly polite greeting? Yours helpfully, JOHN BARNFIELD, 11 South Square, Hamstead Garden Suburb NW11.

walked in some other territory.

There is a powerful argument for requiring all those intending to be teachers to have some experience of another occupation first. Those who go from school to training institution and back to school as teachers are not best fitted to educate young people in the broadest terms. The impression some teachers give of being hermetically sealed from reality is hardly surprising in view of their narrow experience of what life is all about.

The reform of the education system which is currently under way is generally welcomed by all except those who have a vested interest in preserving what has brought failure and insisting that it has bestowed success. However, the progress of reform depends upon the composition of the teaching profession. That being so, the promotion of recruitment to its ranks from other sectors is to be applauded at this time of new beginnings.

Yours faithfully, PETER DAWSON, General Secretary, Professional Association of Teachers, 99 Friar Gate, Derby. December 29.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 4 1879

W. H. Monk (1823-1889) was the musical editor of the first edition of *Lyman's Ancient and Modern Music* (1861). It is believed that by the turn of the century some 30 million copies had been sold. Monk also wrote the tune for "Abide with me".

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH SERVICE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir, I am tempted to ask space for a few words in reply to the letter of "A Churchman" in *The Times* of yesterday. Seeing how great a change has been brought about in the music in churches within our time, it is but natural that this sort of complaint should occasionally crop up. Yet it is not everywhere justified, nor have we yet succeeded in establishing even a moderate amount of cheerful music in all our churches.

I was myself present at a parish church in Sussex, a good deal on the London side of Brighton, a few months ago, on a Sunday evening in summer, at which not a note of music, vocal or instrumental, disturbed the "peace" of the old-fashioned church-goer. Was this to "edification"?

You have already inserted one reply to this gentleman, in which the appropriateness of the music known as "Tallis's Lament and Responses" is maintained. As to that, then, I say no more than to bear my small testimony to the undoubted fact that no Church, continental or insular, Roman or Greek, ancient or modern, can produce music, used in a similar way, of so grand and spiritual a type as this. Its poor and inappropriate execution may, indeed, sometimes be disturbing; but your correspondent is probably unable to separate the matter from the manner, and so fails in his criticism.

May I ask at which part of the service it is that the writer has been tempted to "sit and endure"? The rubric only permits the worshipper to do so during the lessons and the sermon, and I am not aware that they are ever sung.

That the music sung is occasionally unsuitable I admit, and it may be distracting but what we have to be careful about is its proper selection and execution (considered in its musical aspect). But my experience is that in very many churches great care is taken on both heads, much more than was in my younger days the case in our cathedrals; and I think this and the proper direction of the whole service so that it shall not fairly be liable to the condemnation launched against it by your correspondent of being an "entertainment" is at this moment the great point at issue.

I will only add that nothing which has been done musically deserves the word of opprobrium "innovation". The silence of our immediate forefathers was the innovation. The song of praise is as everlasting as the Church itself, though it is interrupted by the apathy of a generation.

This discussion, however, points more than anything to the need of the musical reform now happily being considered by our Universities, as pointed out in your able leader of to-day. The professorship of which I am the second occupant, in King's College, London, was founded 32 years ago, on the establishment of the Theological Department there, by the late Canon Jeff and his professional staff, in witness of their sense of the want of musical training for the clergy. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, WILLIAM HENRY MONK, Professor of Vocal Music, Choir-master and Organist in King's College, London. Glebe-field, Stoke Newington, N., Jan 2.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Isaacs admits human frailty

A funny thing happened to Jeremy Isaacs on his way to the opera: he was invited to run a television station. Five years later, he was invited onto *Right to Reply Special: The Jeremy Isaacs Interview* (Channel 4, Saturday) to answer charges of elitism, partialism, political bias and terminal dullness. Pleading not guilty on almost all counts, his best line was a tentative "I don't think we've got it absolutely right."

What he did get absolutely right in this rather monotonous interview was his contention that even the most conservative-minded viewers are nothing like as shocked by allegedly controversial material as the tabloids would like them to be. A handy test of this might be for *Right to Reply* to devote an edition to the really weird stuff recorded in its Video Box booths. There must be plenty of untrammelled abuse from people bored to tears with worthiness.

Hot on the glassnost trail, *See For Yourself* (BBC1, Sunday) opened up the hallowed halls of Shapheard's Basil. So you want to know how your licence fee is spent? Last night, a fair slice of it went on two hours of peak-time window-dressing, plus another hour of phone-ins on *Open Air Special* (also BBC1). This was doubtless cheaper than real programmes would have been, but licence-payers applying for a rebate might have a case.

Over on ITV, meanwhile, *The Contract* was keeping the Cold War well chilled. A youthful UN interpreter detected from the Russian mission in Geneva, only to be greeted with a colossal frost by Bernard Hepton of the perpetual raincoat, who had been expecting the lad's father, an ex-Nazi rocket boffin, instead.

Gerald Seymuer's amiable and perfectly anodyne drama (which continues tonight and ends tomorrow) is distinguished by the characters' helpfulness in identifying one another - even, most bizarrely, an East German border guard addressing his girlfriend by both names in bed and in subtitles. This new spirit of openness bodes well for the safety of the world, but not perhaps for the future of the spy thriller.

Martin Cropper

Having recently made her directing debut with *Othello* in South Africa, Janet Suzman tells Sheridan Morley about her imminent return to the London stage as Andromache

It's really very simple," So says Janet Suzman, explaining the plot of *Andromache*, with which she opens Jonathan Miller's new management of the Old Vic on January 19 after a few previews. "Orastes loves Hermione, who loves Pyrrhus, who loves Andromache, who loves Hector, who is dead. The real trouble is that Racine has always been a closed door to British actors: we've conquered every other bloody foreign playwright from Ibsen to Chekhov, but we're still scrabbling at that impenetrable French fortress."

The chances are that this time it might be storming: Miller has assembled a strong cast (Peter Eyre, Penelope Wilton, Kevin McNally) and, having abandoned one translation by Craig Raine, is now working with a version by Eric Korn who, says Suzman, "has avoided all those rhyming couplets which reek of 'A' level set texts."

"Everyone knows the great problem with Alexandrines, which is that they sound very uneasy in translation, so what we've got is a very simple, uncluttered text which obeys the laws of English rather than French. Listening to Racine is like watching a thin jet of steam coming out of a cooker: the pressure is amazing."

Now 48, two years absent from the London theatre and divorced from Trevor Nunn, living in Hampstead with their seven-year-old son Joshua, Janet Suzman has long seemed to me the actress most likely to inherit Peggy Ashcroft's mantle as the intelligently passionate romantic of our classical stage. She makes no attempt to hide the pain that Nunn's divorce still causes her, nor to pretend that the theatre can ever be totally separated from her private and political beliefs. Indeed these last few months have been spent in her native South Africa, working at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg.

"I go back there every year to visit my parents and Aunt Helen and I've always wanted to dip my toe and test the temperature of that dreadful place, one I left as a student to come to I AMDA from Witwatersrand in 1959. But last year I went to see my black friend John Kani at his theatre, which is an old Victorian fruit market with wonderful balconies, and by the interval I'd decided that I wanted to make my debut as a director with him as *Othello*.



Storming the fortress: Janet Suzman taking the title role in Racine's *Andromache*, directed by Jonathan Miller, at the Old Vic from January 15

"He'd never touched an iambic pentameter in his life, but I knew the play was right for the mood there now. You really can't have a white actor like Larry Blacking up any more, but with a black *Othello* then a white Iago becomes the perfect metaphor for the state of South Africa - euphemistic, paternalist, trustworthy on the surface, and yet underneath that, destructive second to none."

"Iago destroys a perfectly marvelous relationship across the colour bar for no real reason, and we managed with that production to touch a lot of local nerves. In the last week of the run I shot it all on video, which I hope to edit and screen over here later in the year; there's also talk of reviving the production for the next Edinburgh Festival, if we can afford to trans-

port a cast of 20 across 6,000 miles. "The mystique of directing is mainly rubbish: it's a natural extension of acting, and all you have to do is tell them the story. Everything I learned at John Barton's knee in the RSC 25 years ago came home to me in Johannesburg."

She says the critics "were very uneasy about the parallels we drew between Iago and the state, but we attracted audiences which were 40 per cent black, the highest the Market had ever known; and towards the end of the run young black teenagers were queuing day and night for returns because they had suddenly realised it was a play with something to say to them now about intolerance and evil."

"That *Othello* has given me a

ravenous hunger to go on directing, though for the time being I'm happy enough to leave *Andromache* to Jonathan. Ten years ago, just after the first of his many retirements, I asked him to direct me in *Three Sisters* and ever since then we've been friends. He's very good at building companies quickly out of nowhere, and like me he's a little uneasy about the big subsidised houses."

"The only problem I have now is concentration: you can't half-play *Andromache*, you have to plunge right in and that's not too good for a seven-year-old son when you're the only parent. They say good has to come out of lousy, but my God it takes time when a marriage collapses, especially if you thought it was a strong one."

"Still, my son has taught me to live entirely in the present and I seem to function best now on his timetable. I have no real plans except to get *Othello* over here somehow, and of course to get *Andromache* right which is not proving altogether easy."

"But it's a joy to be working in a real theatre like the Old Vic where people still seem to smile in the foyer: at the Barbican they all look as though they are meant to be catching a plane, and at the National you feel there should be signs warning 'culture bunker, keep out, dangerous actors at work'. There is still a lot to be said for a theatre which manages to look and feel like a theatre, and with Jonathan I think we might be in at the beginning of something very exciting indeed."

RADIO

Don't ask me

A glance at this column this time last year has completely turned me off the idea of a little seasonal prophecy. Radio newsmen peering into the mists of 1987 assured us there would be no summit meeting and no armistice. So much for crystal gazing, yet prophecy is irresistible, maintained by a combination of avid curiosity and deep-seated neurosis, both of them completely untouched by the long and impressive evidence of past failure. Indeed the very core of Christmas itself, the Gospels story, offers some excellent examples, as Radio 3's *Battle Over Bethlehem* (Monday) made plain enough.

To mark Holy Innocent's Day, Margaret Horsfield, venturing into the deep waters of biblical scholarship, enquired what evidence there is to justify our firm belief in amongst other nativity tales, the Massacre of the Innocents. The answer is, I fear, not a lot.

It seems certain that, as with a great deal else in the life of Christ, the gospel writers (Matthew in this instance) were as much concerned to make events correspond with Old Testament stories and prophecies as to set down reliable information. These days prophesying newsmen might find it trickier to fit present to the past, although politicians do it all the time by insisting that their promises have been fulfilled.

In fact caution is only one reason to avoid a spot of crystal gazing: into Radio 1988: this year it is for once unnecessary. In keeping with Chairman Huxley's new spirit of *glasnost*, all four heads of networks are about to present themselves for interrogation by listeners on their record and intentions.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, Michael Green on Call Nick Ross speaks up for Radio 4; later the same morning Johnny Beerling takes up an hour of the Radio 1 Simon Bates show for a phone-in. On Thursday Bryant Marriot answers calls on Radio 2, while, most astonishing of all, next Saturday John Drummond does the same on Radio 3.

Unless I and the network's publicity officer are both mistaken, a Radio 3 phone-in is heretofore unheard of and so it does as much as the presence of supporting BBC dignitaries on this and every one of these occasions to underline their seriousness. David Huxley, managing director of network radio, will be in the studio throughout; Michael Checkland, the director general himself, takes part on Radio 4, which I suppose is a way of signalling to its audience the particular importance attaching to BBC Radio's flagship.

Unfortunately I expect to be on a train to Manchester as Mr Green takes the air, or I think I might want to ask him how the network which in 1987 gave us such gems as Peter Everett's *20th Century Sex*, Ray Gosling's *Waiting for Mrs Forbes*, or Peter Timmiswood's revelation in *MCC* of the superpower status of the Marylebone Cricket Club, ever reconciled itself to broadcasting the recently and mercifully ended *Dial M for Pines*.

But there may be hope in one sector of the comedy front: a kind of panel game, *Where Line Is It Anyway?* (Radio 4, Saturdays repeating Wednesdays) began by asking John Sessions, Stephen Fry, Jeremy Henry and Dawn French to improvise and parody in response to suggestions thrown at them by their studio audience. This quarter were never put back and even once or twice inspired. While still wishing to avoid prophecy, I believe this show just might develop to equal the *News Quiz* or *I'm Sorry, I Haven't a Clue*.

David Wade

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L'italiana in Algeri
Covent Garden

OPERA

Suddenly within a couple of months, after half a century of neglect, Covent Garden have abducted both the popular and the serious opera-goer into their repertoire. But where the *Entführung* was an interesting production of a work not suited to so large a house, the new *Italiana in Algeri* is much more simply and straightforwardly a huge entertainment, thanks very largely to Agnes Baltsa.

The psychological dominance and vocal power of her Isabella might have been expected from what she said in interview with John Higgins on this page on Saturday and from her brandily memorable performances as Candide and expectation does not dull the excitement of experiencing one so utterly in command of every situation.

Of course, the part suits her perfectly. It is entirely plausible that Isabella should be

the sole mistress of her own destiny, and that her relationship with Lindoro should be practically non-existent: the Italian in Algeria becomes an assertive, witty, wily woman surrounded by clods. The music, too, is a gift to her, exploiting the lower register where she has so much hard strength and expressive energy, and yet allowing the occasional display of a more cantabile style higher up.

In another singer the gap between these two styles, and the degree of speech-like roughness in the lower range, might seem serious flaws, but Baltsa sings with an irrefutable confidence, daring disbelief so that it withers. While she is on stage, no alternative interpretation is imaginable. It is also pretty hard for anybody else to get noticed.

Nevertheless, Deon van der Walt as Lindoro provides not only a link with the *Entführung* but also a fine, fresh elegance in the middle

register and a top that is sure if sometimes a little strained. Alessandro Corbelli makes an amusing Taddeo in shorts, and Paolo Montarsolo, who sang Mustafa at Glyndebourne 30 years ago, makes a belated Royal Opera debut: he may not be able to negotiate the most virtuosos music quite so flexibly, but as a buffoon he is admirably lively and touching. There is an excellent Elvira in Judith Howarth, who can stand up to Baltsa vocally and holds on in there with a clear, delightful soprano line in the ensembles; she also looks so good in Moorish *déshabille* one cannot imagine why Mustafa should ever have rejected her.

Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's professional seriousness is evident in every other aspect of the production, which Sonja Frisell has staged for London: only the lighting, casting shadows all over the place, seemed bewilderingly uncontrolled at the opening night on Saturday. The single set is a vaguely Alhambra-style colonnade in stone and soft pink, giving a view onto



No second strings here: Agnes Baltsa and Paolo Montarsolo

miniature architectural arabesques or else, before Isabella's arrival, onto a seascape, where a model paddle steamer is sunk by gunfire.

The same cream-colour scheme governs the costumes of the eunuchs, endowed with wonderful artificial pot-bellies to clutch as they giggle. Lindoro stands out against these surroundings in his Pinkerton-ish naval uniform, but so too much more so, and very appropriate, does Baltsa, in costumes of blackest blue and crimson that place the action rather later in the century than 1813.

It is altogether a handsome stage picture, not overfilled with comic business and pleasantly if not yet fizzily supported by the orchestra under Gabriele Ferro. But it is for Baltsa's performance that you have to go.

Paul Griffiths

Lacking only the discipline

Gabrieli Consort/
McCreesh
Wigmore Hall

CONCERT

Schatz is the tip of an iceberg, as far as 17th century German music is concerned. Some of it, of course, but also some iceberg - a largely neglected and often gloriously eccentric repertoire containing practically the last flutters of modal and metrical freedom before the twin tyrants of tonality and the bar-line took a 200-year-long grip on Western music.

So one applauds the Gabrieli Players and Consort for exploring so imaginatively the world of Schatz, Praetorius and Schein, while regretting that their performances were not more tightly controlled. Paul McCreesh usually established

the right pace and mood for the music, but getting the big things right does not in itself guarantee that the details will fall into place. There were too many casual entries here, and not enough dynamic shading of individual words and phrases, rather a waste of 18 singers who displayed good tone and intonation.

Still, the music itself was rewarding. Heinrich Biber's 1673 *Battalia* opened proceedings. Rumbustious and anarchic it called for some extraordinary *col legno* howling and surely the most cacophonous polytonality before Charles Ives, in an allegro called "The Disorderly Company in High Spirits".

Even in McCreesh's exceedingly sprightly interpretation,

Biber's *Regium* made an interesting contrast, making its effect more by its contrapuntal scoring.

Michael Praetorius's 1611 *Magnificat* was preceded by the Christmas motet on which it was based - Lassus's superb "Angelicus pastor" - and interlarded (or "troped", as the experts say) with carol settings by Schütz, Praetorius himself, and Hieronymus Praetorius (no relation). Since these included some of the world's oldest Christmas litanies in their parent and most beguiling states they tended to steal the show. But the *Magnificat* structure - authentic enough, with alternate verses in plainsong - also stood up well as a performing framework.

Richard Morrison

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VIP INTRODUCTIONS - MARRIAGE CONSULTANTS
ESTABLISHED 1974

MONDAY PAGE

Any make as long as it's cheap

Mink-coated matrons — red in claw, if not tooth — bristle at each other over "slightly irregular" cashmere cardigans and savagely smash their way through stacks of cut-price cut glass. Queues for early bird enticements that only a handful have a hope of catching metamorphose into predatory millepedes whose stranglehold can bring city centres to a standstill.

There have been scenes of post-Christmas sale chaos as never before. Central Birmingham had to be sealed off to all but emergency vehicles, buses and taxis because of the unprecedented stampede. The electronic tills in Lewis's in Leeds crashed under the unexpected demands of the first morning and by lunchtime Debenhams in Manchester reported takings greater than the whole of the first day of last year's event.

'With my booty I feel I've come home with a good kill'

Two respectably-dressed women had to be forcibly separated in Debenhams's Croydon store when they nearly came to blows over a packet of half-price Christmas cards celebrating the season of peace and goodwill.

At Selfridge's in London staff turned into traffic police to herd customers into hastily improvised one-way systems to prevent dangerous pile ups on the escalators.

Cameras are anxiously poised to catch the now predictable carnage of the first day of the sale in Harrods's china department, where rooters take the view

What is it that changes a shopper into a ravening bargain hunter? Victoria McKee investigates

that if they cannot have the complete set of Royal Worcester seconds no one will, and women sit on stacks of plates with their arms around others while accomplices rush to find someone to complete the sale.

So what is it that happens to sensible-seeming folk at the seasonal sales? What makes people who do not even remotely need "bargains" so compulsive about seeking them?

Professor John Dawson has his theories. He is the only Professor of Distributive Studies at a British university. As Director of Stirling University's Institute of Retail Studies, Dawson, a methodical shopper himself, is fascinated by what happens to people as sale time approaches.

"A definite change of behaviour pattern sets in," he says, "even though in Britain over the past few years there has been less price competition and evidence that people are generally less price responsive than they were. There is also the change of what is usually a civilized shopping environment into the atmosphere of a market stall."

Although many may behave like animals, sales shoppers are not all the same species and Professor Dawson breaks them into distinct categories. "There is the compulsive bargain hunter," he says, "who will respond to perceived value even without perceived utility. He — or she — may come out only at sale times."

Then there are the professional shoppers who, Dawson says, make a list knowing exactly what they want and buy in a highly methodical way, something that is genuinely needed. Dawson prizes



Law of the jungle: when the sales start, it's strictly a case of survival of the fittest

himself on being this type of shopper generally, and says his wife is, too. "I treat shopping as an academic exercise, a discipline, like economics," he says. And he never goes near the sales if he can help it. About the shopping profile of his two teenage children, he is less certain, admitting that he never goes shopping with them.

The person the sales really attract, according to Dawson, is the price-constrained shopper, to whom price is everything and discount is vital.

The impatient shopper on the other hand hates sales: "To him, ease of purchase is most important: he is more time-constrained than money-constrained." The queuer is simply the same type of person who will queue overnight for theatre or opera tickets. "It's the thrill of the chase — and maybe the possibility of publicity. Are they there to be interviewed, I sometimes wonder?"

The anthropologist Desmond Morris

sees the sales as a vital ritual in a society stripped of so many ancient outlets of group emotional expression.

"It's not about greed," says Morris, who recounts with glee the now legendary tale of the lady who emerged battered but triumphant from Harrods's sale grasping the prize for which she had fought off so many others: her own hat. "It's a ritual developed to create another acute moment in a chronic year. We need these acute moments like birthdays and Christmas. Primitive societies had all sorts of magic days and feast days which we have lost. Our religion has gone so soggy it doesn't give people what they need," he says.

Christmas is now a ritual with a lid on it. People no longer go out in great seething masses to celebrate Christ's birthday. It has become a curious festival for sitting around the telly, and doesn't really satisfy one. The excitement and panic of the post-Christmas sales is an outlet for all that intense, suppressed emotion. Unfortunately our society hasn't yet found a way to provide a more creative kind of outlet."

It is no accident, according to Morris, that we call bargain hunters exactly that. "I have only one bargain that I hunt: I'm a book hunter. I know that there are other ways of searching out what I want, but it wouldn't be the same. If I come back with my booty I feel I've come home with a good kill, as a skilful hunter. For some people the thrill of the chase is enough."

Charles Sebastian, Strategic Planning Controller for the Debenhams Group, agrees. "Most would-be bargain hunters

realize that it is almost impossible for them to get the so-called earlybird bargains advertised," he says, "but they are attracted by them nevertheless. You have to be a fairly strong man, I can tell you, to get anywhere near the men's shirt counter at sale time, as they are being grabbed by some very determined women. It is mainly women and not men who buy them."

Morris suggests that, if they wanted, "the big stores could channel all this sales mania into a much more special event," and a spokesman for one large store group, says that he believes if sales now started on Christmas Day people would turn out — even if just to escape their relatives and the constant diet of stodgy food and sickly television.

One type of shopper Professor Dawson has not had the opportunity to study

'I treat shopping as an academic exercise, like economics'

is the shopaholic: they, he insists, are an American invention and do not breed to any large extent in Britain. Stand outside Harrods on January 6 at 9 a.m. when the crowds surge in to fight for the gold-plated Bonsack bath down to £179 from £1,787, and see what you think.

But if you are hoping to beat the pack to the china department, remember that last year the record sprint was 25 seconds. In the sales' jungle it is, as in other jungles, a case of survival of the fittest.

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The famous five: any make as long as it's British

Twenty years on, Andrew Lycett catches up with the I'm Backing Britain crusaders

Alan O'Hea shuffles nervously on the dais, the commemorative silver salvers lined up before him. "Girls," he begins, then hastily corrects his gaffe, "I mean ladies, I must get out of the habit of calling you girls." "Go ahead, we don't mind," interrupts Christine Bailey. The other "girls" laugh in agreement.

Looking at them now — joking, clapping and clinking glasses — it is hard to imagine that 20 years ago, when they really were girls, they led a revolution in the workplace. For 15 heady weeks they were the toast of the United Kingdom: the five Surrey office workers, the youngest of them just 15, the oldest 20, who offered to work an extra half day a week for no pay and so started the short-lived I'm Backing Britain movement.

Now together for the first time in 20 years at the Hampshire headquarters of Colt International, the heating and ventilation company, where it all began, there is plenty of catching up to do. Valerie Warwick, Joan Johnston, Christine Bailey and Brenda Bryant — only Carol Monahan was unable to make the reunion.

Christine was the only one of the five to move to Hampshire with Colt when it transferred its main offices from Wokingham in 1967. The others had already left to get married, or were simply too young to leave home. Christine finally left her job in 1970, when she became pregnant with the first of her three children.

Memories of events in 1967 are somewhat blurred. The women are modest about their involvement and wary of drawing any great conclusions. Only Valerie, her hair now flecked with grey, wears the distinctive badge — a Union Jack overstrapped with the words I'm Backing Britain.

They agree it all started with an end of year memo dated December 27 1967 from sales director, Fred Price. He sug-

gested the country's balance of payments deficit could be solved if everybody worked an extra half day a week. The following morning Joan told her colleagues she would happily do this herself.

They all agreed. Valerie, who retains some of the aloofness and seriousness of a supervisor, wrote a reply — Ref VW/OD GEN — which ended, "Let us be the first company to start the ball rolling. Why wait for someone else? We are all in favour of starting such a scheme."

By Monday January 1 1968, when the girls were due to start putting their words into action, they were celebrities. They had appeared on television, received a telegram of support from the Duke of Edinburgh and spawned a movement. An initial slogan — I'm Behind Britain — was discarded because, as Jerome O'Hea, Alan's younger brother recalls, it had the "wrong connotations".

Jerome had his own problems at the time. He ran Colt's

factory in Havant. Arriving at the plant that Monday he found the 200-strong workforce angry at being steamrollered into such a commitment. He called them all into the staff dining room and convinced them their support was vital. As a compromise it was decided they should work half an hour extra each day.

The main union, the AEU, objected and ordered its local convener, Harry Tyler, not to participate. He refused, and was expelled from his union post, along with two other officials.

"You've got to remember this was at the height of union power," recalls Alan O'Hea, whose father started the privately owned firm in 1931. "In November 1967 the pound had been devalued, there was talk of a miners' strike and the mood of the country was sombre. And then along came these five pretty girls with this great idea."

For the next few weeks the girls did little work, let alone an extra half hour a day, as the Backing Britain crusade took off, giving a patriotic boost to



Girls grown up: (from left), Joan, Christine, Valerie and Brenda, still flag-waving. Inset: (from left), Brenda, Joan, Valerie, Carol — who missed the reunion — and Christine

the country's initial post-Imperial depression. Councils like Bootle in Lancashire rushed to pledge their support. Five thousand independent grocers, including Spar, pegged their prices. Composers Tony Hatch and Jackie Trent penned a sickly song for comedian Bruce Forsyth — "I'm Backing Britain/Yes I'm Backing Britain/We're all Backing Britain today/The feeling is growing/So let's keep it going/The good times are blowing our way".

For Colt it was all very "weaving". There was a lot of hate mail. The girls had to be chaperoned around. Towards the end of January, O'Hea was happy to give up the day-to-day running of the movement to the Industrial Society. By this time Robert Maxwell was operating a rival campaign under the title Help Britain, Help Yourself.

Neither strand lasted more than a few months. But the Backing Britain mood has

remained an inspiration for subsequent incarnations, such as the current Think British campaign, headed by disc jockey David Jacobs.

Carol Monahan, who now lives in Ruislip, believes a similar movement would not work today. "You've got a different generation now," she says. "When we left school there was no question about us getting a job. Buying British would be a better idea today. That would create jobs and help do something about unemployment."

Working in the social services and studying for an Open University degree, she is more radical and outspoken than her former colleagues. Nevertheless, like them, she still tries to buy British whenever possible. "I recently took a blouse back to the school uniform shop because I found it was Japanese."

Paul Renter, AEU District Secretary in Portsmouth, says his union objected to I'm Backing Britain because: "It appeared our members were doing overtime for an employer for nothing," while

"the employer did not seem to be backing Britain because of its foreign connections".

Paul O'Hea, Alan's son, admits shamefacedly that much of the company's machinery comes from Japan, for want of a British manufacturer. "Our members were led to believe that they were backing Britain," says Renter. "But what they were really doing was backing Colt."

If there were a similar movement today, they would oppose it. That doesn't mean we don't have pride in Britain. For many years we have been encouraging British employers to invest in British industry and British people."

Alistair Graham of the Industrial Society takes the same line. "In retrospect the Backing Britain movement looks a bit crude. Are you backing Britain by buying a car designed in Japan but built in Co Durham? A better approach is to back people, by training and developing the skills of the British people."

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THE INVADERS

Who buys British? Not many people, judging by the most recent import penetration figures (by value):

WHITE GOODS	%
Dishwashers	20
Washing machines	38
Fridge freezers	36
Other freezers	74
Microwave ovens	85
Spin dryers	47
Tumble dryers	25

HOUSEHOLD GOODS	%
Mirrors	56
Clocks	98
Furniture	30
Vacuum cleaner	38
Heated rollers	78
Hand dryers	90
Floor covering	76

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Domestic glassware	57
Cutlery	39
Scissors	97
Irons	47
Toasters	45
Electric cookers	28
Food mixers	76
Gas cookers	12

FOOD

Butter	67
Cheese	27
Bacon	58
Lamb	47
Beef/veal	12

LEISURE EQUIPMENT

Sports equipment	88
Toys and games	74
Bicycles/motor cycles	87

CLOTHING/ACCESSORIES

Luggage	86
Leather handbags	89
Footwear	47
Men's suits	59
Men's trousers	65
Men's shirts	44
Women's suits	90

AUDIO VISUAL

Colour television	55
Music centres	73
Car radios	86
Videos	91

VEHICLES

Cars	57
Commercial vehicles	37

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Ballpoint pens	38
Typewriters	85
Calculators	98

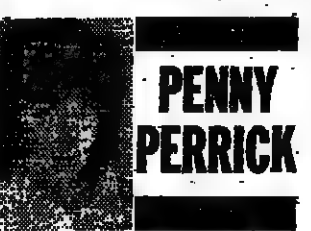
Source: Mintel

End of dream, back to meatloaf

The new year is still wet behind the ears and it has already produced a buzz-phrase. "New realism" are the words on everyone's lips, from the miners considering a six-day working week to the women delegates at a recent symposium on the way we live now, who were told that men would never do their equal share of disposing of dirty nappies or the garbage because both were disgusting, mucky tasks.

The new realism of all this is at bracing us now in May. To think of the years we have spent hoping that men would meet the emotional challenge of being true helpmates. We would have been better employed in coming to terms with the fact that nobody, however emotionally flexible, will do something irksome if he can get out of it.

What a detailed lunch of



PENNY PERRICK

fantasies we all were, dressing of men in butcher-striped aprons and a mouthful of nappy pins, when we should have been potty-training our children from birth and installing automatic garbage-disposal systems.

Well, now the daydreaming is over and we could be in for a sobering dose of the new realism, as prophesied by Faith Popcorn, the head of Brain Reserve, a New York forecasting outfit which helps businesses prepare for the future.

Miss Popcorn is convinced

that women are going to go back home in a big way and she does not need a crystal ball to say this, she just has to look around the office. Most women in it will be observed to be having a marriage-out-of-the-home, that is, they will be working their guts out for some man who will take all the credit when things go right and go into an Attilla the Hun routine when they do not.

The new realism among us must surely grasp the notion that it is far more pleasant to be a slave to the home rather than to the office, since you are at least provided with bed and board for services rendered therein and do not have to sneak about with eyeliner, working wardrobes and inconvenient rush-hour travel.

Even people less smart than Miss Popcorn have noticed a return to home-making. Two very successful magazine

launches during last year were titles called *Prima* and *Best*, both very heavy on knitting patterns and recipes and very light on profiles of female snuckmakers and tips on how to achieve multiple orgasms.

Miss Popcorn also predicts that women will get taller because they will be eating mashed potatoes, meat loaf, chips and casseroles as a reward against miserable cashless and Jane Fonda-type health and fitness obsessions.

If women do stay at home, they are obviously going to put on weight because it is impossible to be a housewife without making hourly tracks towards the kitchen for cups of milky coffee, Marmite soldiers and chocolate digestive biscuits.

I do not quite see how the return of the fat women will square with the return of integrity — "we will want the

truth no matter how much it hurts" — because the first man who tells his over-cuddly wife that he is beginning to find it difficult to distinguish her from the three-seater sofa is going to get a smack in the chops. Perhaps that is what Miss Popcorn means by the truth hurting.

Another of her forecasts is that more and more women are going to run businesses from home. This is going to be a bit limiting as nobody, as far as I know, has run a merchant bank from the comfort of their own sitting-room.

So part of the new realism is going to be more home-knit jumpers, a return to tie-dying and a bumper crop of New Realism novels, which will all be about harel homewives who worry about their weight and whether their mashed potatoes are completely free of lumps.

From Aidan McGarry, Woodcote Avenue, Mill Hill, London NW7.

I agree with some of the views expressed in Peter Brown's article on the place of religion in inner-city multi-cultural schools (Bleak midwinter, Dec 16) but would like to voice a more moderate opinion. Some schools in the ILCA have a high incidence of ethnic minority pupils who, in their faiths, celebrate feasts which are just as important to them as Christmas is to Christians. Equal opportunities policies in schools forbid that these pupils be denied the right to practise their religion or that they should feel that their feasts are less important than Christian equivalents.

Just as they would for Christian parents, schools must play a part with the home in upholding the teaching of the faith in question. They can also help Christians overcome their insularity and adopt an inquiring and responsible attitude towards

TALKBACK

other religions, and realize the value of the contribution they make to society.

Mr Brown exposes the true nature of his own faith when he admits to being a "part time" Christian; it is ironic that he tries to make up for his lack of commitment only when he sees a so-called "threat" from other faiths to the endemic quasi-religiosity and narrow-mindedness which are unfortunately widespread and which his views do nothing to dispel.

From Dr Ann M. Cowell, Princes Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks

Libby Purves's article (Doing away with the manger, Wednesday Page, Dec 23) filled me with sadness. At Christmas especially we need to fill with hope those who doubt the Gospel message. I have left a corner in scientific research to

teach children for this very reason, although I acknowledge that we live in a multi-cultural society. If parents feel insecure about their role in this, then we should help point them to those who already share the truth. Let us not misguide the "agnostics" and their children, but rather help them see that Jesus, his love, healing and forgiveness are a reality and are offered to us now, both in Britain and in poorer lands.

Arts look fine in Country Life

Superb reproduction standards make Country Life the ideal medium for presenting things of beauty. So Fine Arts always feature prominently in the pages of Country Life. Be in the best of editorial and advertiser company, and reach the top cross-section of opinion-formers. It is a very fine opportunity.

Contact Nigel Lockes

01-261 5401

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(V) Access for disabled

THEATRE

LONDON

★ **ACTING SHAKESPEARE:** Ian McKellen plays Hamlet, Falstaff, Romeo, Juliet and many more in award-winning solo show. All proceeds to the London Lighthouse AIDS Hospice.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queens Theatre (01-234 1158). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayfair Theatre (01-234 3038). ★ The Cat: New London Theatre (01-405 0072).

★ **BACK WITH A VENGEANCE:** Dame Edna Everage back again. Taming the Tossers: Southwark Theatre (01-836 2860). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £8.50-£17.50.

★ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** New version in trad style by David Cragg. Theatre Royal, Garry Rafferty Square, E15 (01-254 0101). Tube: Stratford East. Mon-Sat 7.15-9.15pm, mat Mon-Sat 2.15-4.15pm, £3-25.50, children £1.50-4.

★ **BETWEEN EAST AND WEST:** Shakespear and John Woodvine play two Czech dissidents facing the freedom of the US. Hampstead Theatre (01-234 3038). Tube: Swiss Cottage. Mon-Sat 8-10.15pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £2-27.

★ **DREAMS OF SAN FRANCISCO:** Five women play by Jacqueline Hobrough, set to contain the high promise of last year's Garden Girls. Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (01-743 3368). Tube: Shepherd's Bush. Tues-Sun 8-10pm, £2-10.

★ **EASY VIRTUE:** Revival of early Coward comedy-drama. The woman with a past and a scandalously young husband. Large cast includes Jane How, Avril Angers, and Ronnie Stevens. King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper Street, N1 (01-226 1916). Tube: Angel/Highbury & Islington. Tues-Sat 7pm, mat Sat and Sun 2.30-4.30pm, £2-10.

★ **THE FOREIGNER:** Nicholas Lynskey as a timid tourist in the US struck dumb with nerves. Every Theatre, St Martin's Lane, W1 (01-836 3878). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 8-10.30pm, mat Thurs and Sat 3-5.30pm, £2-13.50.

★ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST:** Dame Hilda Brackett bestows upon her son Lady Bracknell and her daughter Gwendolen her Miss Prism in a cunning adaptation of Mr Wilde's original. Whitehall Theatre, 100 Strand, W1 (01-776 7765). Tube: Charing Cross/Embankment. Mon-Fri 8-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.30pm, mat Wed 5-7.15pm, £3.50-£13.50.

★ **JAMES BOND - THE TANTO:** Licensed to look it. Zip Kudo's alternative version, with John Dowling as an agent out of his depth among the hardware and the sexual action. A hit in Brighton. ICA Theatre, The Mall, SW1 (01-830 3647). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 8-10pm, £2.50.

★ **OUTBREAK OF GOD IN AREA 3:** Divine intervention in the lives of our cultural leaders: scurrious report by Ken Campbell's troupe of canines. Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (01-234 6363). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30-8.30pm, £7.50.

★ **STARS:** An Early Stages transfer from the RSC: Stephen Lowe's romantic comedy, set in a wartime cinema. West End Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford (01-836 1170). Station: Kew Bridge. 8-9pm, £3, until Jan 8.

★ **THE DEAD:** (Up: John Huston's final film - a poignant adaptation of James Joyce's story about a post-Christmas party in Dublin, full of mellow reflections on life, marriage and death. With Angelica Huston, Donald Sutherland, and others. Progs 1.40, 3.30, 5.20, 7.15, 9.15. (V)

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The American saxophonist George Coleman (above) enjoyed arguably his finest moments in the early 1970s, when he joined the Miles Davis group and the latter in a line of replacements for John Coltrane. On albums such as the classic *My Funny Valentine*, recorded live at the New York Philharmonic Hall in 1964, he showed himself to be a challenging partner for Davis, himself more or less at the top of his form. Coleman left the group later that year to work with leaders as varied as Lionel Hampton and Lee Morgan.

After forming his own band, he has been a consistently inventive performer in the neo-bop school, though he has rarely received as much attention as during the Davis period. Now a regular visitor to this country, he begins a fortnight's residency at Ronnie Scott's Club tonight. His appearance coincides with the release of an album with the iconic title, *Playing Changes*, which was recorded at the club in 1979. Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (01-439 0747), 9.30pm, £2. (members £2).

OPERA

★ **REBECCA:** Opera North's revival of Herbert Joseph's compelling opera of Desha's life and death, a story of love, loyalty and sacrifice. Grand Theatre, New Brighton, Merseyside. Mon-Sat 7.30-9.30pm, £12.50-£17.50.

ROCK

★ **WHITESNAKE:** Along with the Sea and the Pet Shop Boys, David Coverdale's rock band is a contender for the title of Best British Group in the 1988 British Record Industry Awards. Trouble is, since the last reshuffle, the band comprise three Americans and a Dutchman. Newcastle City Hall, Northumberland Road (01-201 2806), 7.30pm, £2-10, for two nights.

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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET
(Change on week)
FT 30 Share
1373.3 (-59.0)
FT-SE 100
1712.7 (-78.4)
Bargains
15800 (8251)
USM (Datstream)
136.69 (-2.58)

THE POUND
(Change on week)
US dollar
1.8850 (+0.0520)
W German mark
2.9613 (-0.0265)
Trade-weighted
75.8 (+0.2)

US NOTEBOOK
Corporate
America is
a bargain
again

From Maxwell Newton
New York

The key man to watch this year is Mr Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Already, Mr Greenspan has proved to be tough. The precipitous collapse of the growth of "real" Adjusted Federal Reserve Credit (the cash base of the entire US financial system) was the great hold trademark of Federal Reserve policy last year.

In inflation-adjusted terms, Adjusted Federal Reserve Credit was growing at a peak year-on-year rate of 11 per cent at the beginning of 1987.

By November, the year-on-year growth rate had fallen to 4 per cent, just about as low as the rate pertaining in mid-1984 when, in defiance of presidential politics, Mr Paul Volcker, the former Fed chairman, moved with panache to kill the most robust phase of the economic expansion.

Mr Greenspan has shown equal indifference to the political niceties and exigencies.

Commodity prices are under incessant pressure, falling time and again to penetrate upper resistance zones. An initial sharp upward move seemed to many analysts to prefigure mounting inflation last year. But since the May peak, commodity futures prices have gone nowhere.

Gold, which hit resistance at about \$480 in the second quarter of 1987, has consistently failed to make any significant penetration of that level.

What is more, precious metal prices as a group have done nothing since May. The Commodity Research Bureau index of precious metals prices stood at 350 at year-end, compared with the 1987 peak of 415 in May, when inflation hysteria was approaching its peak.

Evidently, there has been a potent deflationary undertone whose importance escaped most analysts last year, leading the "consensus" to talk glibly of an imminent grave inflation and leading to "pie in the sky" thoughts in the fevered brains of share speculators.

This deep and powerful deflationary current has actually gained more and more strength, becoming swollen and menacing, as branches, limbs and rocks have been pulled into the flow. Overconfident swimmers have been swept off-balance and tossed into the boiling drift.

So, as far as this year is concerned, the broad outlines are already set.

Even if the Fed suddenly switched to an easy policy it would take a year for such a policy to have an effect on economic activity.

An easier policy is indeed likely down the road, and when it comes it will set off another bond rally of important proportions.

The wholesale sell-off of the dollar in the closing months of last year will soon be seen as an emotional climax; the end of a movement, not the beginning of one.

US financial assets, scorned by foreigners for so much of 1987, will soon be perceived as the most fashionable of items. Corporate America is once again a bargain.

But 1988 will mostly be "the year of the top quality bond" - and not only for domestic US investors.

Because this means good times for creditors, it also means bad times for borrowers, who have had such a binge in the past three years. Leverage is out; cash is in.

Crown Colony government moves to restore confidence

New team for HK exchange

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong
Hong Kong's former banking commissioner, Mr Robert Fell, has taken control of the day-to-day running of the Crown Colony's stock exchange to try to restore confidence after the arrest of three senior officials, including Mr Ronald Li, former chairman.

Power is to be vested in a new committee which excludes most senior officers of the exchange, including the recently-elected chairman, Mr Charles Sin.

Mr Fell said: "The government felt that certain members of the former committee may be part of the general inquiry."

An official on secondment from London, Miss Susan Selwyn, takes over as secretary and general manager.

Yesterday Mr Fell said the exchange's present secretary and general manager, Mr CW Tsang, was to be replaced. Mr CW Tsang had been working for chief executive Mr Jeffrey Sun, one of three officials arrested.

The new management comprises 14 of the 21-member stock exchange committee. Those not on the new committee are Mr Sin, Mr Li, the vice-chairman, Mr Kenneth Wong, Mr Joseph Ma, Mr Chan Siu-lun, and members Mr Edward Woo and Mr Zee Kwok-kung.

"Naturally people would think that we had been asked to distance ourselves from the exchange because of incompetence or mismanagement," Mr Fell said.

He said the exchange would open for business as usual today. "There is no interference whatsoever with the normal working of the stock exchange," he said. "Business will be completely as usual. I see no reason why the Hang Seng Index should move one way or another because of this development."

Mr Ian Hay Davison, the former Lloyd's of London chief executive, is undertaking a six-month review of the Colony's financial markets. It is expected to be followed by sweeping changes, not least a strengthening of the powers and resources of the Securities Commission.

According to an article in today's *South China Morning Post*, the Government was prepared to railroad the exchange committee if it did not agree to step aside and accept a new management structure over the weekend.

The paper quoted "well-placed sources" as saying the Government had prepared special legislation as a contingency plan in the event that the stock exchange committee refused to hand over its powers to a new management committee headed by Mr Fell.

The legislation would have given the government the power to take control of the management of the exchange, suspend the existing SE committee and appoint its own nominees.

The Executive Council - Hong Kong's cabinet - approved the contingency measure during an emergency meeting on Saturday morning, when it was informed that the ICAC had arrested three senior exchange officials.

The plan would have called for the emergency reconvening of Legislative Council - Hong Kong's law-making body - either for Saturday night or yesterday.

The Legislative Council would have been asked to rush through three readings of a specially drafted bill so that legislation could take effect before the stock markets opened this morning.

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After the arrests: Ronald Li (centre) is driven to the Hong Kong anti-corruption organization's headquarters

Three put up £1 million bail

The three men were arrested in a series of dawn raids on Saturday morning by the Crown Colony's anti-corruption watchdogs.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption released them on Saturday evening on a combined bail of more than HK\$14 million (£1 million), with HK\$10 million from Mr Ronald Li alone.

The stock exchange's chief executive officer, Mr Jeffrey Sun, was released on HK\$4 million and the head of the listing department, Mr Donald Tsang, had to put up HK\$40,000. All three had to surrender their passports to the ICAC.

The arrests were masterminded by the ICAC, an arm of the government, which is responsible for preventing corruption in Hong Kong. It has draconian powers of arrest and seizure and has been particularly active in cleaning up the Crown Colony's police force, racing and big business.

A spokesman for the ICAC said last night that investigations could take some time before a report could be produced, which would then be passed to the legal department for a decision on whether or not to prosecute.

The investigations are said to have started before the stock market crash last October.

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City set for rise in base rates

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

There are growing expectations in the City that the next move in interest rates will be upward. Money market rates are now almost discounting a half percentage point rise in base rates back to 9 per cent.

The fall in the pound from its "ceiling" of DM3 has removed one of the constraints on a higher level of interest rates and the economy is still thought to be growing dangerously fast.

Mr Stephen Hannah, of County NatWest Gilts, said: "CB's surveys and consumer confidence since October suggest that the stock market crash has not had much effect on growth. I can easily see base rates at 9 per cent early in the New Year."

The reserves figure due on Tuesday are expected to show that substantial intervention was necessary at the beginning of last month to keep sterling from rising too far. Market forecasts are for an underlying increase last month of about \$2 billion (£106 billion).

Foreign exchange and equity markets are likely to be highly volatile this week as senior dealers return from holiday. Further pressure is likely on the dollar in the weeks ahead.

of the disappointing statement by the Group of Seven just before Christmas.

Markets now have no fiscal policy changes in prospect which might revive confidence in the dollar. Dealers are looking for an increase in the US discount rate to stem the selling, but so far there have been no signs that the US is prepared to risk exacerbating the economic slowdown by raising rates.

Further information on the US economy will become available at the end of the week with the employment report for December.

In a New Year message published in the *Sunday Telegraph*, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said there were risks in the world economy, but that Britain was exceptionally well placed to weather any storms. Government borrowing this year would be the lowest since 1970 even before taking account of privatization proceeds.

The British economy would not be blown off course by a "temporary storm in the financial market."

Mr Lawson said that although world growth might be slower this year there was "no sign whatever" of recession. "Britain's steadily growing prosperity is not some short-lived boom which could come to a juddering halt at any moment," he said.

Some City investment banks also expect Britain to be among the fastest growing economies in 1988. Kleinwort Greaves expects Britain to grow by 3 per cent, second to Japan.

But others, including Goldman Sachs, are worried that economic policy is now too expansionary. Although the stock market crash will slow the economy it will not slow it enough and the non-oil sector could grow this year by as much as 3.5-4 per cent. The Chancellor, Goldman thinks, should therefore adopt a less expansionary policy this year.

Lloyds Bank believes that the net effect of the stock market crash may be actually to increase economic activity because of the subsequent cut in interest rate. Mr Patrick Foley estimates that the wealth effect will cut consumer spending by only 0.14 per cent by early 1989.

one and slightly more people expect the mortgage rate to show an increase rather than a decrease.

Do you think each of the following will rise, fall or stay about the same during 1988?

(MORI)	Rise	Fall	Stay same	Don't know
Rate of inflation	46	12	34	8
Level of interest rates	40	42	29	9
Unemployment	14	38	43	10
Value of pound against dollar	28	45	26	3
Value of pound against dollar	36	18	51	2
Mortgage interest	31	26	27	15

Public shares Chancellor's optimism

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The British public shares the Chancellor's optimism about the economic prospects for the coming year, according to the latest opinion poll conducted exclusively for Times Newspapers.

In his New Year message in a Sunday newspaper (see above), Mr Nigel Lawson said that the country is set on a course of continuing expansion and discounts the recent gyrations on the world stock markets.

Overall, three out of four people expect that 1988 will be a good year for them personally, up from the two-thirds of the population expressing personal satisfaction with last year.

Those expecting falls in unemployment, income tax and strikes outnumber pessimists by approximately two to one.

The balance of opinion also comes down on the side of a rise in living standards and a stronger pound against the dollar.

But there are two areas of concern. Those fearing a rise in the rate of inflation outnumber optimists by four to one and slightly more people expect the mortgage rate to show an increase rather than a decrease.

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Dee takeovers do not make sense, says B&D

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Alec Monk's Dee Corporation came under blistering attack last night from Barker & Dobson, which has launched a £2 billion bid for the food retailing group.

Dee was accused of making a string of muddled takeovers, ruining good brand names, and failing to understand its customers.

Mr John Fletcher, the chief executive of Barker & Dobson, the budget stores group, said Dee was not working because it was the "muddled result" of a series of acquisitions.

"The group now straddles supermarkets, sports retailers in the US, supermarkets, a cash-and-carry business, drug stores and an operation in Spain. These businesses just do not make sense as a retailing group," he said in a letter to Dee shareholders.

The acquisition of Fine Fare and Hermanns in the US had brought problems which Dee's management was unable to resolve. The letter also said Dee's "insensitive" retailing approach had damaged Gateway, which accounted for three-quarters of its total business.

Gateway, which had a greater square footage of selling space than rivals such as Sainsbury, Tesco or Asda, was a "mess."

The letter says: "By throwing everything into the Gateway pot, from corner shops to 70,000 sq ft supermarkets, Dee has ruined any hope of creating a focused identity for Gateway in its present form."

"Gateway seems to rely on only one competitive weapon - low prices. Companies with a better understanding of customer priorities concentrate on what their target customers want. In today's marketplace, customers increasingly want quality, service and convenience, not just low prices."

Barker & Dobson, which is a fraction of the size of Dee, plans to sell off 78 Dee supermarkets and concentrate on its core business.

The attack came on the eve of Dee's defence document, which is expected to be strongly critical of Barker & Dobson's own record, and in particular the financing arrangements for mounting the bid.

Last night Mr Monk, the Dee chairman, confirmed that Citibank, the international bank spearheading the Barker & Dobson financing, had approached Dee last year, offering to fund a management buyout. It later proposed to finance the purchase by Dee of a block of between 15 and 20 per cent of its own shares. Both schemes were turned down.

"We didn't think the buyout had any merit, and we thought our share price was at a temporary low so we discarded both ideas," said Mr Monk, who expressed concern at the loan agreement between Barker & Dobson and the banks.

He said the loans being made by Citibank and the rest of the consortium to finance the bid "put the management in the position of being puppets of the banks."

Mr Monk said: "The asset disposals being planned if the bid goes through are purely to service the loans being advanced. It must be asked whether it is in the public interest for a company to be broken up in order to service the debts."

Mr Fletcher said last night that he was surprised to discover Citibank's earlier role.

Valuation expected to back Tricentrol

By Michael Tate

An independent valuation of Tricentrol's assets due in the next few days is expected to support the oil and gas exploration group's view that Elf Aquitaine's £135 million cash takeover bid is too low.

The report is being prepared by the ERC consultancy, an oil, gas and minerals specialist which is also currently working on a valuation of Britoil, the North Sea explorer faced with a £2.3 billion unwelcome bid from British Petroleum.

Mr James Longcroft, the Tricentrol chairman, believes the report will back his view on the company's underlying value, and over the weekend criticized Elf for publishing its "unsubstantiated" opinion that the company was worth less than its offer of 145p a share.

Elf, meanwhile, remains sceptical of the promised valuation and in a statement yesterday said it "eagerly awaits an opportunity to scrutinize carefully this information."

The French group points out that Tricentrol is loss-making, non-dividend paying and very highly geared, and insists it has "a bleak future as an independent company."

Much hinges on Mr Longcroft's fund-raising mission to the US this week. He flies to New York tomorrow for further discussions on the £350 million refinancing package Tricentrol has been seeking since early last summer, and hopes to be able to announce completion of the first stage in mid-January.

The money is needed to clear Tricentrol's existing borrowings of about £130 million and to finance the group's proven reserves at Wyth Farm and in the North Sea.

Printing arm formed for newspapers

Mail Newspapers, which owns the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and *Evening Standard*, has formed a new division to manage the printing and services for its three titles.

The new company, Harroworth Quays, will have Mr AM Smith as managing director. Mr CJF Sinclair will be chairman and other directors will be Mr Edward Winnington-Ingram, Mr Bert Hardy and Mr JN Lambert.

Mr Winnington-Ingram, the managing director of Mail Newspapers, said: "1988 is the year in which we will commence operations in our new production plant at Surrey Docks. It, therefore, seems appropriate that we should start the year by putting in place the independent organization that will operate these facilities."

SPA
Strategic Planning Associates
is pleased to announce
the appointment of
MR. ANGUS WALKER
who has joined
the London Office
as Vice President
and Managing Director

Mr. Walker was previously
Director, Corporate Strategy
with British Telecom

WASHINGTON D.C. LONDON GENEVA SINGAPORE

GILT-EDGED

Recessionary winds could blow favourably for UK bonds

Over recent months the gilt market has undergone two abrupt changes of mood about the underlying position of the economy — and hence its own fortunes.

As hopes for a heatwave faded with the passing summer months, so concern about the economy over-heating increased. Then the October stock market crash brought a wave of anxiety about recession, leading the authorities to cut base rates three times, and sustaining a sharp rally in gilts.

As the stock market recovered, so the mood changed again to worry about over-heating. And apparently with good reason. Since the October stock market fall, just about every statistic that has come out on the economy has confirmed the picture of extremely strong domestic demand, far stronger than when the authorities raised base rates by 1 per cent in August. Yet now base rates are 1.5 per cent lower.

Surely all that holds the authorities back from raising base rates is the still uncomfortable high level of the pound. Against this background, the fate of the gilt market in 1988 hinges on two key questions. First, are earlier fears of recession now entirely misplaced? Second, will the pound continue to show strength?

Last year was a bumper one for the British economy. It now looks as though it grew by about 4.5 per cent in real terms, its fastest rate of growth since 1973. Some slowdown from this frenetic pace is almost inevitable in 1988 but you do not have to be a super-bull to see a still healthy growth rate this year. Indeed, the quarterly pattern of growth in 1987 virtually guarantees a decent growth figure for 1988.

Even if GDP stood still in 1988 at the level attained in the fourth quarter of 1987, that would imply growth of 1988's GDP, in relation to 1987's, of about 2 per cent. So even the surest of forecasts from the fourth quarter level would take the growth rate to 2.5 or 3 per cent.

Nevertheless there are recessionary worries. There is no sign of any demand to consumer confidence in Britain and investment looks set to be strong. Rather, the recessionary threats come from outside Britain. The continuing saga of stock market jitters could have yet another episode or two to run. Further dollar weakness would put downward pressure on the pound in the rest of Europe and the Far East, and deter real investment.

The Japanese stock market continues to defy understanding. It was a far from encouraging sign that the big four Japanese securities houses had to buy stock for their own account to prop up the Nikkei index to ensure a strong close for the year.

These problems are overshadowed by the difficulties of the US. There the October stock market collapse, combined with existing uncertainty about the economic outlook, may produce a lacklustre economic performance this year.

Yet whatever turns out for 1988, 1989 and beyond look bleak. Although the US will surely not set about squeezing domestic consumption before the November elections, once they are out of the way, the authorities will likely have to face up to this issue. And the prospect of further action to cut the deficit may influence economic and market behaviour well before year-end.

It is possible, of course, that the already steep fall of the dollar will succeed in effecting a significant turnaround in the American current account deficit early in the year, thereby easing pressure on the US. But even if this happened, it would be far from an unmitigated blessing. For it would effectively switch world demand from non-US to US goods.

If the bulk of this effect fell on Japan, Korea and Taiwan, perhaps the knock-on effects would be limited (except on stock markets). But would it? And how would West Germany react to a steep fall in its export surplus? It is difficult enough to persuade the Germans to take stimulatory action now. If the export surplus were smaller, although the need for stronger domestic demand would be greater, the German inclination to enact stimulatory

measures could well be weaker.

If these recessionary fears prove to be justified — and it will be some months before we know the answer — then worldwide pressures on inflation and bond yields (with the possible exception of the US) will be downwards and this serve to underpin a bull market in gilts. But if world demand growth is sluggish, this will also accentuate a problem already looming large for the gilt market — namely Britain's deteriorating balance of payments.

The recent strength of sterling has brought a twin benefit to gilts. It has helped directly to restrain inflationary pressures and has also prompted the authorities to reduce short-term interest rates. If the widening current account deficit causes sterling to weaken, then gilts would suffer a twin blow — higher inflation and higher short interest rates.

Some sort of sterling crisis looks on the cards this year but as so often in the past, it could easily blow over. And the gilt market could weather the storm. For inflationary pressures are still subdued and the weak dollar and lower oil prices will continue to keep down input costs. The market may be surprised by some particularly good inflation figures in the early months of the year.

Meanwhile, a lower level of sterling will probably not prompt large increases in sterling interest rates, but rather facilitate a return more to pre-crash levels.

With base rates at 8.5 per cent and long yields at 9.5-9.75 per cent, arguably such a move is already at least partly discounted. The authorities would be reluctant to raise rates substantially, for sterling has been right at the very top of the range thought appropriate for a level of DM2.80-DM2.85, which would be more comfortable.

Indeed, if the authorities wish to maintain strong UK growth in the face of relatively weak world demand, they may have to allow the pound to ease down further. The strong investment growth anticipated in 1988 is needed to relieve capacity constraints and complete the virtuous

circle apparently under way. It would be a pity to discourage this by imposing higher financing costs.

In any case, markedly higher rates of interest appear to be distinctly second best compared to fiscal restriction, given the strength of consumption. If the BoP deteriorates badly, the case for a sharp reduction in the PSBR will be a strong one. But a sharp reduction from which level? The most recent official forecast is a deficit of £1 billion. In fact, a small surplus (of perhaps £1 billion) looks more likely this year. Given the Chancellor's ambitions for big tax cuts in the Budget, a reduction in next year's PSBR below this year's low figure looks unlikely.

And would it be necessary? Suppose this year's result is indeed a surplus of £1 billion. That would be a reduction over last year's of more than £4 billion, representing more than 1 per cent of GDP. Even though this is a reduction in the PSBR caused by the strength of the economy, its full restraining effect, building up during the current fiscal year, will not yet have been felt. Merely to repeat this year's PSBR might count as fiscal restriction enough.

Although it represented no further fiscal tightening compared with 1987-88, a very low or even negative PSBR for 1988-89 would be well received in the gilt market.

Indeed, if sterling comes under selling pressure, the authorities may choose to use some of their new substantial foreign exchange reserves to support the pound, thus reducing their gilt financing needs still further.

With base rates at some stage likely to be lifted, and sterling surely set to ease against the mark over the year, the gilt bears have something to get their teeth into in 1988. But the overall trend for the year will be set by factors in the world economy, and by the second half recessionary forces may loom large. As so often, bad news for just about everybody else may prove to be good news for gilts.

Roger Bootle
Economic adviser at
Lloyds Merchant Bank

The disappearing world of the merchant banker

In more than 100 years of existence, the City's merchant banking community has never changed as fast as in 1987.

The traditional independent bank has all but vanished; the exclusive club, the Accepting Houses Association, has ceased to exist; and the sector has become so fragmented that "merchant bank" is hardly a useful generic description any longer.

Change was not a happy experience for some of the most illustrious City names. The most prolonged agony was Hill Samuel's enforced and painful retreat into the arms of the TSB Group.

It took a mere six months to become clear that the diversified Hill Samuel Group had bitten off more than it could chew before Big Bang.

As a medium-sized merchant banking group it had several useful profit-centres — corporate finance and insurance broking, for example — but insufficient capital to support its ambitions in the securities markets.

The venture into securities, broking and dealing with Wood Mackenzie, the stock-broking firm, was meant to add value to the flagship corporate finance operation. But by the summer both areas were clamouring for more capital backing and a wider securities distribution network (Wood Mac's international reach, for example, was very limited).

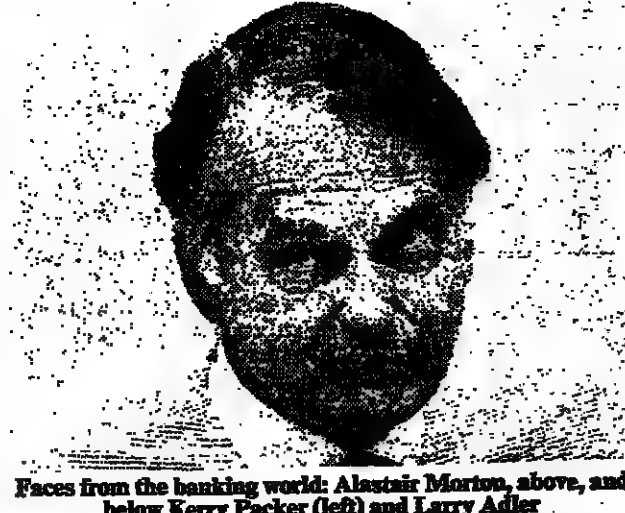
This was the background to the abortive attempt to merge with Union Bank of Switzerland, from which a host of further problems stemmed.

Not only did Hill Samuel fail to gain a strong parent when the deal collapsed in July, but the episode illustrated the problems implicit in running a "people business".

Declining staff morale almost caused the complete disappearance of Hill Samuel's once-proud corporate finance division which was negotiating to move on to merge with Barclays de Zotte Wedd. The defection was headed off but the head and deputy head of the division were dismissed in acrimonious circumstances.

Even when Hill Samuel achieved its ambition and was taken over by the TSB in November, about a quarter of the corporate finance division still chose to leave.

What the TSB really wanted



Faces from the banking world: Alastair Morton, above, and below Kerry Packer (left) and Larry Adler



was Hill Samuel's retail insurance operations. The merchant bank's once powerful corporate finance side, however, now looks set for an honourable but limited role handling medium-sized companies — the corporate market the TSB itself is pitching for.

Personnel problems also hit Guinness Mahon when its entire senior management team departed early in the year, allegedly because of clashes with Mr Alastair Morton, the chairman of Guinness Peat Group at the time.

GPG then abruptly lost its independence when Equitcorp, the New Zealand investment company, successfully bid for it and simultaneously scotched a deal to bring in a new management team to Guinness Mahon. The merchant bank is still searching for top managers.

The failure of Hill Samuel and GPG to remain independent was partly due to their failure to position themselves effectively in post-Big Bang financial markets. But it was also due to their vulnerable shareholding structure. In the scramble by big

markets — notably corporate finance. Barings has even managed to grow in some unusual areas, such as its successful Far Eastern securities operation.

Safe from speculators, and without the need for vast capital resources, they have been able to concentrate on their strengths with single-minded determination. So far, at least, this has worked.

Companies evidently appreciate the independence of these banks and the special skills they can offer. Lazard, for instance, is building expertise in cross-border deals using its links with its sister banks in New York and Paris.

These institutions are all that remain of the core of the old blue-blooded City merchant banks, along with Hambro which has developed into a securities agency. So far, Hambro's experiment has produced a revival in the bank's fortunes and reputation.

At the other end of the scale, however, the big institutions which gave up their traditional merchant banking form to move into securities markets had their share of problems.

The Gulf between the likes of Kleinwort Benson, Lazard, SG Warburg and Morgan Grenfell, compared with NM Rothschild or Lazard, emerged starkly during the stock market crash. As far as the scanty information available goes, SG Warburg appears to have lost rather more than £10 million on securities dealing in the crash. Kleinwort and Morgan have each probably lost about that amount, too.

In spite of this, however, they have nursed their resources carefully. More carefully perhaps than County NatWest or Barclays de Zoete Wedd which, in different ways, chased market share knowing they had the backing of a clearing bank. So far SG Warburg appears to have done best, but the winners and losers in the Big Bang game are not likely to emerge clearly for at least another year.

But it is clear that these institutions can no longer be lumped in with the traditional merchant banks. Perhaps it is time to refer to them as "investment banks", the US term for combined merchant banking and securities firms.

Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

CBI seeking more help for smaller companies

By Our Industrial Staff

Many of Britain's smaller firms are losing out to competitors because they fail to recognize the need to innovate and are unaware of the many sources of advice and assistance available to them, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

Mrs Jean Parker, chairman of the CBI Smaller Firms Council, said more positive action was needed by larger companies, the Government and the education world to promote existing initiatives for small companies.

Mrs Parker, in a report to the CBI, has identified four main areas which require attention to help smaller firms introduce innovations.

The report says awareness of market opportunities and marketing skills themselves are the key to innovation in smaller firms, but points to problems at two levels.

Firstly, there is a basic lack of understanding of the strategic importance of marketing. Secondly, there is evidence of inadequate market intelligence among smaller firms.

The report adds that the CBI welcomes the Government's Support for Marketing Scheme, but asks for it to be improved to include support for market intelligence. It also suggests it should be

used in industry sector-by-sector.

A further recommendation stresses the need for more access to government procurement and research and development spending for smaller firms. The Ministry of Defence Small Firms Initiative is commended, and other government departments are urged to allocate a proportion of any research and development budgets to smaller firms, and to set up advice services to help in accessing government procurement.

The CBI believes product innovation is most likely to take place in firms that have permanent research and development departments.

However, for smaller enterprises the report suggests ways in which experience can be channelled through to small firms from local universities, colleges and polytechnics.

It reminds firms of the value of sandwich course students, and those on vacation, in providing help on technical projects, and it recommends that higher education institutions should forge closer links with the business community.

It also suggests more publicity for the Teaching Company Scheme, which enables research students to undertake their research on company-linked projects.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling Index compared with 1975 was up at 75.8 (day's range 75.5-75.8).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for December 31	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.8705-1.8800	1.8840-1.8900	0.23-0.29p	0.63-0.69p
London	2.2200-2.2300	2.2250-2.2300	0.12-0.14p	0.34-0.36p
Frankfurt	11.3245-11.3255	11.3245-11.3255	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p
Paris	11.3181-11.3228	11.3181-11.3228	7p-7.80p	12p-12.10p
Geneva	2.9507-2.9517	2.9507-2.9517	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p
Madrid	243.47-247.37	245.22-247.37	70-100cs	242-250cs
Amsterdam	210.07-210.70	210.07-210.70	25-30cs	136-167cs
Osaka	11.9457-11.9498	11.9457-11.9498	5p-7.70p	17p-19p
Stockholm	10.8045-10.8086	10.8045-10.8086	4p-7.70p	17p-19p
Tokyo	228.88-229.24	227.91-229.24	4p-7.70p	17p-19p
Verona	2.3811-2.4011	2.3889-2.4000	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p

Premiums — pr. Discount — ds.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91
1.8705-1.8800	1.8840-1.8900	1.8980-1.9040	1.9120-1.9180
2.2200-2.2300	2.2250-2.2300	2.2390-2.2450	2.2530-2.2590
11.3245-11.3255	11.3245-11.3255	11.3385-11.3445	11.3525-11.3585
11.3181-11.3228	11.3181-11.3228	11.3321-11.3381	11.3461-11.3521
2.9507-2.9517	2.9507-2.9517	2.9647-2.9707	2.9787-2.9847
243.47-247.37	245.22-247.37	246.62-248.72	248.02-250.12
210.07-210.70	210.07-210.70	211.47-212.10	212.87-213.50
11.9457-11.9498	11.9457-11.9498	11.9597-11.9657	11.9737-11.9797
10.8045-10.8086	10.8045-10.8086	10.8185-10.8245	10.8325-10.8385
228.88-229.24	227.91-229.24	229.31-230.91	230.71-232.31
2.3811-2.4011	2.3889-2.4000	2.4029-2.4189	2.4169-2.4329

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Eclat.

MONEY MARKETS

Bank Rate %	Clearing Bank %	Finance Hse %
10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00

Overnight %	1 Week %	3 Month %
10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00

1 Month %	3 Month %	6 Month %
10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00

1 Year %	2 Year %	3 Year %
10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00

TREASURY BILLS

1 Week %	3 Month %	6 Month %
10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	Price	Change	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Yield	P/E
1.8705-1.8800	1.8840-1.8900	0.23-0.29p	0.63-0.69p						
2.2200-2.2300	2.2250-2.2300	0.12-0.14p	0.34-0.36p						
11.3245-11.3255	11.3245-11.3255	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p						
11.3181-11.3228	11.3181-11.3228	7p-7.80p	12p-12.10p						
2.9507-2.9517	2.9507-2.9517	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p						
243.47-247.37	245.22-247.37	70-100cs	242-250cs						
210.07-210.70	210.07-210.70	25-30cs	136-167cs						
11.9457-11.9498	11.9457-11.9498	5p-7.70p	17p-19p						
10.8045-10.8086	10.8045-10.8086	4p-7.70p	17p-19p						
228.88-229.24	227.91-229.24	4p-7.70p	17p-19p						
2.3811-2.4011	2.3889-2.4000	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p						

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Yield	P/E
1.8705-1.8800	1.8840-1.8900	0.23-0.29p	0.63-0.69p						
2.2200-2.2300	2.2250-2.2300	0.12-0.14p	0.34-0.36p						
11.3245-11.3255	11.3245-11.3255	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p						
11.3181-11.3228	11.3181-11.3228	7p-7.80p	12p-12.10p						
2.9507-2.9517	2.9507-2.9517	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p						
243.47-247.37	245.22-247.37	70-100cs	242-250cs						
210.07-210.70	210.07-210.70	25-30cs	136-167cs						
11.9457-11.9498	11.9457-11.9498	5p-7.70p	17p-19p						
10.8045-10.8086	10.8045-10.8086	4p-7.70p	17p-19p						
228.88-229.24	227.91-229.24	4p-7.70p	17p-19p						
2.3811-2.4011	2.3889-2.4000	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p						

THIRD MARKET

Company	Price	Change	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Yield	P/E
1.8705-1.8800	1.8840-1.8900	0.23-0.29p	0.63-0.69p						
2.2200-2.2300	2.2250-2.2300	0.12-0.14p	0.34-0.36p						
11.3245-11.3255	11.3245-11.3255	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p						
11.3181-11.3228	11.3181-11.3228	7p-7.80p	12p-12.10p						
2.9507-2.9517	2.9507-2.9517	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p						
243.47-247.37	245.22-247.37	70-100cs	242-250cs						
210.07-210.70	210.07-210.70	25-30cs	136-167cs						
11.9457-11.9498	11.9457-11.9498	5p-7.70p	17p-19p						
10.8045-10.8086	10.8045-10.8086	4p-7.70p	17p-19p						
228.88-229.24	227.91-229.24	4p-7.70p	17p-19p						
2.3811-2.4011	2.3889-2.4000	1p-1.10p	3p-3.40p						

Billionaire in the news

Mr Li — radical who fought the crash by closing HKSE

From Stephen Leather
Hong Kong

Mr Ronald Li, the former chairman of the Hong Kong stock exchange, has been rated the third richest man in Hong Kong, with a personal fortune said to be worth HK\$14 billion (£1 billion).

He is the man who closed the exchange for four days after Black Monday, a move that led to worldwide criticism as it locked in local and international investors while stock markets around the world plummeted.

Earlier he had caused something of a stir when he revealed plans to float the world's largest "gilt" bar on the Hong Kong stock market.

Club Volvo is a nightclub in Hong Kong's Tsim Sha Tsui East area, with 1,000 hostesses who are paid to drink and dance with wealthy businessmen, who often take the girls home with them.

The club has a fully computerized payment system, with the girls slotting a plastic card into a computer terminal at the table when they sit down with a client, who is then billed by the minute.

When it was announced it planned to go public, the club revealed it had a daily turnover of at least HK\$700,000 and assets of almost HK\$300 million. The flotation plans were dropped after the markets crashed.

Mr Li defended the move to apply for a listing for the



Speaking out yesterday: Piers Jacobs (left) and Robert Fell

nightclub, of which he owned less than 10 per cent.

"The stock exchange is like a department store," he said. "We sell all kinds of merchandise."

But Mr Li really came to the world's attention when he lost his temper in front of the world's television cameras at a press conference on October 26, the day trading resumed after the four-day closure.

An Australian journalist questioned the legality of the closure and Mr Li slammed his fist on the table and furiously demanded an apology.

"This is slanderous," he shouted. "What is your name, and I want my solicitor to take this down. I am going to sue you for this. You said I have



Speaking out yesterday: Piers Jacobs (left) and Robert Fell

acted against the law and I have committed nothing against the law — you have gone too far. If you don't retract right now you are going to get a law suit right now."

He then leapt to his feet and shouted for the reporter's name saying: "Charge him — take him to the police station."

It was Mr Li, aged 58, who masterminded the merger of Hong Kong's four stock exchanges into one unified exchange in April 1986.

When trading opened the total market capitalization of Hong Kong's listed companies totalled HK\$260 billion; now it is almost HK\$400 billion.

While almost three-quarters of the exchange's turnover

comes from international overseas stockbrokers, it is dominated by small, local brokers, most of whom are ardent supporters of Mr Li.

Mr Li stepped down as chairman on December 16 after completing his two-year term and was then elected one of five vice-chairmen.

Mr Li was asleep at his Shouson Hill home when four Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) officers knocked on his door at 6am on Saturday. His home and office were searched.

Just before 11am he was taken to the ICAC's headquarters where he was held until 8pm before being released on HK\$10 million bail.

He was born the son of a wealthy shipowner. He went to the University of Hong Kong and in 1947 studied business administration at Wittenberg University.

He later studied accountancy at the University of Pennsylvania before returning to take over the family business.

He sold off the family's last ship and put all the money into shares before setting himself up in a mortgage and money-lending business. He became chairman of the old Far East Exchange, one of the four stock exchanges that was merged in April 1986.

He likes to be known as Dr Li, although his doctorate is an honorary one from an American college.

Mr Li has been accused of ruling the exchange with an iron hand, and he has firm views on democracy. Early last year he said: "Who decreed that the majority should, by right, control the destinies of nations, irrespective of individual merit? That mob rule should be the order of the day? Would a class of children control simply because they were in the majority?"

Mr Li was voted 1987 Hong Kong Man of the Year by the Colony's top English language newspaper, the *South China Morning Post*.

Mr Li was unrepentant about his decision to close the exchange.

A sign of which way the wind was blowing came during a press conference on December 23, when Mr Piers Jacobs, the financial secretary, gave his view of the Colony's economy. Mr Jacobs went to a great deal of trouble to distance himself from Mr Li's decision to close the exchange.

He pointed out that the exchange had made several statements saying the decision to close came after consultations with the government.

"I don't regard a single 'phone call a consultation," said Mr Jacobs.

Mr Robert Fell, the chief executive of the stock exchange, said the first he knew of the ICAC investigation was when he was told at 7am on Saturday.

ECONOMIC VIEW Lawson's big chance for Budget reform

The Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, and his top officials gather in the library at Chevening in Kent next weekend for their annual pre-Budget discussions with an enviable prospect in front of them. Rapid growth in the economy and buoyant revenue have presented the Chancellor with tax-cutting opportunities of several billion pounds. The Government has a large new majority and several years before it need seek re-election.

Given such an economic and political conjunction the prospects for tax reduction and tax reform must be more favourable than they have been for many years.

With an opportunity like that it might seem perverse to dwell on the importance of fiscal caution. Yet discussion about the correct level of the public sector borrowing requirement in 1988-89 is likely to be more intense than usual.

During election year the economy grew rapidly, almost certainly faster than its underlying capacity for sustained expansion, as the Chancellor has acknowledged. This year exporters will find the going tougher as the benefit of the 1986 sterling depreciation fades and overseas markets, such as the US, slow down. But domestic demand continues to look remarkably buoyant.

Consumer spending is still rising fast and the present level of pay settlements is likely to keep the high street busy. With exports slowing down and domestic demand still growing substantially faster than in most of Britain's trading partners, the balance of payments deficit will be a bigger constraint than in 1987.

Some economists, both inside and outside the Treasury, are arguing that in these circumstances the last thing the economy needs is tax cuts. Lower taxes put more spending money in people's pockets and will stoke up extra demand which industry will not be able to satisfy.

A consequent rise in imports could risk a sterling crisis which would throw away some of the gains against inflation. A number of caveats should be attached to this argument. First, it is still very uncertain how much and how rapidly the fall in share prices may boost savings. The major effect will be felt in the US, but there will also be some effect in Britain. So far there is little sign that the reduction in investors' wealth has curbed their spending, but past evidence suggests that the full effect will only be felt over the next two years.

Secondly, the further rise in sterling against the dollar and the modest fall in oil prices mean that inflationary pressures are falling. Several economists are now predicting inflation of less than 4 per cent by the final quarter of next year compared with 4.5 per cent in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

Thirdly, revenue may be sufficiently buoyant to take some demand out of the

economy by announcing a lower PSBR and cut taxation, too. In the Autumn Statement the outturn for the PSBR this year was forecast at £1 billion. A balanced budget next year would probably still leave room for significant tax cuts.

In the past the Treasury has wisely ignored the supply side effects of lower taxes in its fiscal arithmetic, preferring to wait for these effects to materialize before taking any credit for them. But the fact that the supply side effects inconveniently do not occur at the same time as the demand effects does not mean they do not exist.

The minimum requirement is for a budget judgement as prudent as last year's. But it would be ostensible not to recognize the uniqueness of this year's opportunity for tax reform. Budgets come round every year, but the combination of a Chancellor with the ability to tackle tax reform seriously, a government with the political authority to see it through the Finance Bill and fiscal room for manoeuvre to soothe the pains of redistribution arrives only seldom.

Having set a provisional target for next year's borrowing requirement, the Chancellor and his officials can turn to the more enjoyable question of how to "spend" the revenue they are left with.

But they do not start with an entirely blank sheet of paper. Scribbled in the margin are a sizeable list of pledges delivered at election time and in the course of the last Parliament. Widening the scope of VAT to include food, fuel and children's shoes or clothing has been ruled out — although the judgement of the European Court, due early this month, on taxing new commercial buildings may leave the Chancellor the semi-unwilling recipient of an extra £300 million of revenue.

On the personal tax side Mrs Thatcher confirmed in an interview late last year that abolition of mortgage interest relief was "pretty well out." And on the taxation of savings the Chancellor has promised (in the 1985 Budget) that any substantial changes will be preceded by a green paper.

That still leaves a task quite large enough for one Budget. There is scope for further reforms in capital taxation, particularly on the incidence of Inheritance Tax. The experiments at stimulating closer links between pay and profitability and at widening share ownership through Personal Equity Plans need refining and enhancing. And personal taxation needs the same thorough-going reform as the Chancellor gave corporation tax in the first Budget of the last Parliament. That should be more than enough to produce an economically useful and politically attractive package of reforms.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Value of hotels soars 40%

By Michael Tate

Hotel values rose more than twice as fast as house prices last year, according to figures published today. They show that the average price of an hotel in Britain rocketed by 40 per cent in 1987, to £249,000, compared with 18.3 per cent for the average house price rise.

Christie & Co, the values, which compiled the statistics, says that independent businesses in general rose faster in value than houses. The average business is worth almost 24.5 per cent more than a year ago, after a rise of just under 14 per cent in 1986.

The figures also show that restaurants have risen in value by almost 31 per cent, and that free house pubs, after two relatively static years, increased by nearly 19 per cent, their biggest single increase since 1980. The average price of a public house at the end of 1987 was £147,000, about £1,000 less than the average restaurant/wine bar price.

Stores showed the biggest rise after hotels, at 37.9 per cent, while rest homes and nursing homes increased by 20.2 per cent.

Mr John Howard, the managing director of Christie, says the stock market collapse "seems to have had a minimal effect on the independent business market."

"All the evidence suggests that demand will remain strong," he adds.

Toys for the City boys

Investors searching for a home for their money after the stock market crash may soon be given the chance to take a stake in a trait trait specialising in antique toys.

The scheme has been drawn up by Mr Jeffrey Levitt who has turned a hobby collecting rare toys into a profitable business.

His company, Mint & Boxed, based in Hendon, North London, buys and sells antique toys — mainly trains, cars and boats — and last year made a profit before tax of £500,000 on sales of £1.23 million. This year it is expected to turnover of £3 million.

Mr Levitt, aged 31, started the business with £2,000 capital in 1984. "It has been a hobby for some years and I decided to try and make it a full time business. People buying antique toys range from the mass to the street to film stars and many of the wealthiest in the country."

He is currently bidding for a New York collection worth around £350,000 which includes a German Marklin Leutpold paddle boat made in 1896. He believes this item alone could be resold for £65,000. Mr Levitt's biggest deal so far involved the sale of a 14-inch 1906 open top car for £45,000.

"I am interested in toys made up to the 1950s," says Mr Levitt. A 1955 Dinky toy Austin Somerset saloon car is now worth £150.

He has now linked with some City investors keen on setting up a unit trust which aims to raise about £5 million for investment in toys.



Happy man: Jeffrey Levitt with a £55,000 1906 Marklin car (left) and a £45,000 Dinky toy

Visitors spend £3.5bn

By David Young

Overseas visitors to London last year spent a record £3,550 million, although the number of visitors was lower than the record 9.1 million who came to the capital in 1985.

Figures issued by the London Tourist Board show that 8.9 million overseas tourists came to London last year. A detailed survey taken in the summer confirms that the proportion of American tourists is continuing to fall, and that the majority of visitors, 52 per cent, are from Western Europe. The average age is also falling, with 59 per cent of tourists under 35, reflecting the fall in the number of long-haul visitors.

The figures show that 23 per cent of the tourists who came in the summer were from America, compared with 34 per cent in 1985.

The survey looked specifically at repeat visitors who make up half of all visitors. Of these, 9 per cent had visited earlier in the year and 31 per cent in 1986.

The proportion using licensed hotels dropped to 33 per cent in 1987, compared with 40 per cent in 1985, with the percentage staying with friends and relatives going up from 21 per cent to 24 per cent, reflecting the nationality and age breakdown of this year's summer visitors.

Headrow was the main point of arrival, 46 per cent coming through there. Gatwick accounted for 25 per cent and Dover 15 per cent. The vast majority, 86 per cent, were satisfied with their welcome, and of the 8 per cent who complained, the main cause was delays at immigration and baggage reclaim areas.

The study also shows that the main tourist attractions have remained largely unchanged. The Tower of London is in top position, visited by 72 per cent of the tourists, followed by the British Museum (51 per cent), the National Gallery (49 per cent), Madame Tussauds (47 per cent), the Tate Gallery (35 per cent), and the Victoria and Albert Museum (30 per cent).

Festive sales hit hopes of wine record

Hopes that Britain's wine and spirit trade would end the year with record sales have been dashed by the poor summer weather and the apparent slow start to the Christmas buying spree.

The latest figures from the Wine and Spirit Association show sales started to pick up in September, with light wine sales rising by 5.5 per cent compared with the same period last year and fortified wine sales up by 2.1 per cent.

However, medium wines such as sherries increased sales by only 3.6 per cent and heavier wines such as ports fell by 1.5 per cent. The figures show that sales plummeted in August.

Mr Nick Gent, the chairman of the association, said: "It does seem that much of what growth there is may be coming from new consumers."

Recipe for an exocet

The arrest of three leading Hong Kong stock exchange officials over the weekend came as no surprise to those who watch the comings and goings of the Crown Colony's securities watchdog, Ray Austin. The tough-talking Commissioner for Securities has a reputation for being out of town when controversies occur. Austin, aged 50, was away when a row broke out over the Keswick family's plans to issue B-shares in Jardine Matheson, with equal voting rights but at one-tenth the value of ordinary shares, which would have allowed it to tighten its control on the firm while moving its capital out of the Colony. He also missed out on the Committee on Takeovers and Mergers investigation of whether two local firms were acting in concert when they bought stakes in the Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels, owner of the prestigious Peninsula Hotel. Austin was again away on Black Monday, although he made it back in time for the \$4 billion bail-out of the Colony's Futures Exchange. So when he said he was holidaying in Manila from December 24 to January 4, the financial community braced itself for another catastrophe.

Big bang

While most people are thankful that the festive season is over for another year, directors at Tom Smith, the 140-year-old Norwich Christmas cracker manufacturer, are al-

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Yuppies are Japped

As predicted long ago, the Jappies are moving into City jobs where yuppies once reigned supreme. Speaking the language of the yen — even a little — is now a highly prized attribute within the Square Mile. The Japanese themselves estimate that 2 million people worldwide are now trying to learn their language. Even the dear old BBC is moving into the global market

ready counting the shopping days until Christmas 1988. By then, they hope to be making a big bang in America. At present, most Americans apparently think crackers are something you put cheese on — but Andrew Lander, Smith's chief executive, is out to put them straight. He is popping

across to the New York Toy Fair next month to look for a US manufacturing partner, claiming that additional celebrations in the US, such as Thanksgiving and Labor Day, could mean big business for Smith. As he so charmingly puts it: "We British are reserved. We only put on silly hats and act foolish once a year. But the Americans would probably be willing to do it several times." Quite likely.

● In search of a last-minute stocking filler just before Christmas, Ann Widdecombe, the Tory MP for Maidstone, popped into the House of Commons shop to buy a tin of humbugs. But they had sold out. As she left, she bumped into the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill. "The House has no humbugs," she complained. "Never mind, it's got plenty of fudge," he replied.



"Can't you forget the Footie for a moment?"

Terror tactics

At first glance it reads like an undiscovered Shakespearean play. The cast includes the likes of the Viscount of Oriola, the Count of Nuvoletta, the Dukes of Valderano and St. Albans, the Marquess de la Conquista Real (the Spanish Ambassador) and Lient-Gen José de Betencourt Rodriguez (former Commander in Chief of the Portuguese forces in Africa). But be fooled not. They are all members of the council of a little-known organization called The Research Foundation for the Study of Terrorism. Sharing, coincidentally perhaps, the same London address and telephone number as right-wing Aims of Industry, the organization, I can reveal, is registered with the Charity Commissioners as an educational trust. And, like all charities, it is looking for money. Paul Wilkinson, Professor of International Relations at Aberdeen University, has written to several companies asking for donations of up to £10,000 to fund "a major research project on terrorist threats to industry by product contamination and methods of combating them." More than 25 per cent of international terrorist attacks are now, the foundation says, directed at private industry and commerce.

● I hear of a senior partner of a medium-sized City stockbroker who offered his staff a choice of Christmas presents this year — a partnership in the firm or a turkey. Apparently they all opted for the turkey.

Carol Leonard

Australian banks start action on Fairfax loans

From Richard Battley, Sydney

John Fairfax Ltd, the Australian publisher, is being sued by two Australian banks to enforce repayment of an Aus\$300 million (£114.3 million) loan. The National Australia Bank and Westpac are seeking orders from the Supreme Court that Fairfax pay them Aus\$150 million each.

The loan, made last March to fund the purchase of the Melbourne Channel 7 television station in the Aus\$2.3 billion carve-up of The Herald & Weekly Times Ltd, is not due for repayment until January 29.

But the banks are concerned that funds from the recent sale of Fairfax assets will be channelled to the ANZ Bank, which has lent Aus\$1.9 billion to Fairfax. The company Mr Warwick Fairfax used to return the media company's family has controlled for more than 150 years to private hands.

Legal sources said the conditions of the loan made by NAB and Westpac enabled the banks to seek immediate

repayment if there was a "significant deterioration of the company's assets."

An ANZ spokesman yesterday said the three banks — Australia's top commercial banks — would meet today to try to resolve the issue.

Analysts said the concerted action was yet another link in a chain of apparent misfortunes facing Mr Fairfax. He has also been hit by: ● The ruling last week by Mr Paul Keating, the Treasurer, that News Ltd, the Australian subsidiary of The News Corporation, could not buy Mr Fairfax's interest in Australian Associated Press Information Services, which operates Australia's sole national news agency.

News Ltd had agreed to buy that holding and other Fairfax interests in AAP and Australian Newspaper Mills, the main supplier of newspaper in Australia, for an estimated Aus\$275 million. The Trade Practices Commission successfully sought injunctions restraining News Ltd from

acquiring those assets. The Federal Court is expected, in March or April, to determine the legality of the proposed sale.

● The decision last month by Mr Robert Holmes & Court, badly hit in the stock market crash, to exercise a put option requiring Fairfax to take back Macquarie Broadcasting Holdings, Australia's most successful AM radio network, for Aus\$158 million.

● The renegotiation by Mr Kerry Packer over his Aus\$250 million "purchase" of Fairfax Magazine and the *Canberra Times*; and

● The abandonment, in the initial stages of the Aus\$2.5 billion buy-back plan, of the Aus\$250 million flotation of the Fairfax subsidiary, David Syne & Co, publisher of the *Age*, a Melbourne broadsheet and reputedly Australia's most profitable newspaper.

RESULTS

TODAY — Interims: Kleinwort Benson Fund, Sandell Perkins, Fisons: First National Finance Corporation.

TOMORROW — Interims: Brunning Group, Pepe Group, Singer and Friedlander Group, Zetters Leisure.

WEDNESDAY — Interims: Clayhithe, Hollas Group, Zygal Dynamics. Fisons: Robert Horne Group, Sock Shop International.

THURSDAY — Interims: Abbey, Christy Hunt, Jyrs Hotel Group, Fisons: Abbey Panels Investments, Associated Newspapers Holdings, Daily Mail and General Trust, Debenhams, Tawson & Chinnocks Holdings, Debenhams.

FRIDAY — Interims: Blake (Peter) Holdings.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Crds	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Citibank NA	8.50%

Kleinwort Benson

Kleinwort Benson Limited announces that with effect from 1st January 1988, the mortgage base rate will be 10.15 per annum and the personal loan base rate will be 9.15 per annum.

You just don't know what "HASSLE" means, Jenkins...

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Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gains or Loss
1	Pentac	Drugs, Stores	
2	Carrs Milling	Food	
3	Bayan	Oil, Gas	
4	Church Charles	Building, Roads	
5	Starchouse (ms)	Drugs, Stores	
6	HK Shanghai	Bank, Discount	
7	Unid Scientific	Electronics	
8	Pentac Ind	Industrial L-R	
9	Western Selection	Electronics	
10	Bowater	Industrial A-D	
11	Royal Bk Scot (sa)	Bank, Discount	
12	Argyll (sa)	Food	
13	United	Electronics	
14	Vera	Drugs, Stores	
15	Harwell Plc	Manufact, Alloys	
16	Pico	Electronics	
17	Heleas of London	Drugs, Stores	
18	Admiral Comp	Electronics	
19	Lon Securities	Property	
20	War	Industrial S-Z	
21	Dehaler	Electronics	
22	Burgess	Industrial A-D	
23	Compton PLC	Building, Roads	
24	Comyns	Building, Roads	
25	Amber Day	Drugs, Stores	
26	Whitbread A (sa)	Breweries	
27	Wiggins	Building, Roads	
28	Rock	Industrial L-R	
29	WTC (sa)	Industrial A-D	
30	Ascom	Industrial A-D	
31	Bentley	Paper, Print, Adv	
32	Ward Higgs	Building, Roads	
33	Hopkings	Industrial E-K	
34	Lea	Industrial L-R	
35	Providence	Bank, Discount	
36	Brown (Matthew)	Breweries	
37	AAF Int	Industrial A-D	
38	Tilbury Group	Building, Roads	
39	Silkenight	Industrial S-Z	
40	Huntingdon	Industrial E-K	
41	New London Oil	Oil, Gas	
42	Guinness Bank	Bank, Discount	
43	Hutchinson Wharfedale	Industrial E-K	
44	Cherford	Property	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £24,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS				
Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS				
Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS				
Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

UNDATED				
Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INDEX-LINKED				
Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP				
Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ELECTRICALS				
Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 21. Dealings end January 8. Settlement day January 11. Settlement day January 18.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BUILDING, ROADS					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

CINEMAS, TV					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

DRAPERY, STORES					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ELECTRICALS					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BREWERIES					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FINANCE, LAND					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FOODS					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

HOTELS, CATERERS					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

E-K					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

L-R					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

S-Z					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OILS, GAS					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TOBACCO					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INSURANCE					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

LEISURE					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

MINING					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

SHIPPING					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

SHOES, LEATHER					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

PROPERTY					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TEXTILES					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TOBACCO					
Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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Millfield Senior School

Street, Somerset BA16 0YD
Telephone (0458) 42291

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Co-educational, 1200+ pupils and 170 teachers.
Age range 13 to 19 years. Average number of pupils per class: 12. Boarding and Day Fees (per term): Boarding £2540; Day £1380. Approximately 20 SCHOLARSHIPS (Academic and Musical), in addition to a much greater number of bursaries, will be awarded on the results of an examination taken in Spring 1988.
Candidates (boys and girls) should be over 13 and under 14 on September 1st of the year of the examination (Music scholars under 17 in September 1988).
Academic SCHOLARSHIPS and BURSARIES also available for Sixth Form entry.
All Scholarships and Bursaries give a percentage reduction on standard fees.
Academic entries (other than for Sixth Form) close on February 8th 1988.
Music entries close on February 1st 1988.
For further particulars and prospectus, please write to the Tutor for Admissions (Ref. Sch. 1A).



Millfield School

Principal: C.R.M. Atkinson, BA, M.Ed., D.L.C.

Senior School
Millfield, Street,
Somerset BA16 0YD
Tel: (0458) 42281

Junior School
Edgarley Hall,
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Tel: (0458) 32446

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Telephone (0458) 32446

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Continued from page 23

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Applications are invited for a new permanent Lectureship in Finance (tenable from 1 August 1988). The appointee will join a lively multi-disciplinary Department with a strong commitment to Accounting and Finance. Applicants with expertise in computer applications are particularly encouraged to apply. Salary is on the lecturer scale £3260 - £19310, at a starting point to be determined by the appointee's qualifications, age and experience.

Further particulars should be obtained from:

The Registrar and Secretary (Ref. NJ1), University of Bristol, Science House, Bristol BS8 1TH

to whom applications should be sent by 23rd January 1988

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

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Applications (including current C.V. and the names of 3 referees) should be submitted to the Bursar (from whom further particulars may be obtained), University of Bristol, Senate House, Bristol, BS8 1TH by 23rd January 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

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Applications (including current C.V. and the names of 3 referees) should be submitted to the Bursar (from whom further particulars may be obtained), University of Bristol, Senate House, Bristol, BS8 1TH by 23rd January 1988.

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FOOTBALL: WATFORD'S BALANCE SHEET DROPS FURTHER INTO THE RED WHILE MCAVENNIE SECURES CELTIC'S PROFITS IN THE OLD FIRM MATCH

Near misses but no mercy as McClair strikes a cruel blow

By Dennis Signy

Watford..... 0
Manchester United..... 1

A standing ovation for the players from the regulars at Vicarage Road who nostalgically recalled the heady days of success and family enjoyment under Graham Taylor, the former manager, as he retired these days as a goal in the visitors' net.

Despite the cheers, the depressing fact remains that Watford's meagre return of eight goals from 11 home games is the lowest in the Barclays League and a contributory factor to their six defeats in front of their own crowd and their position at the bottom of the first division.

The sight of Senior, the one-time prolific goalscorer, being withdrawn told the story of a match Watford might have won handsomely. Senior has managed two goals, one of them in a Littlewoods Cup game at Darlington, since his £325,000 signing from Reading in the summer and has been unmercifully baited and criticized to the extent that his confidence has obviously been impaired.

In contrast, McClair, who cost United £850,000 from Celtic, scored his twentieth goal with his one-telling contribution and looks certain to be the first player at Old Trafford to exceed 20 in a

season since Best. Robson engineered the move with a pass down the left to Gibson after 40 minutes and McClair slid in the resultant cross.

Apart from a shot from 30 yards by the strangely subdued Whiteside after 67 minutes that hit a post, United were rarely in the hunt and looked a more than ordinary side despite their elevated position three places behind Liverpool.

Alex Ferguson, their manager, almost apologetically prefaced his post-match remarks cliché-style by saying: "Funny game isn't it? When you are down there, nothing goes for you. I think Watford played really well - we were lucky to get a win."

Ignoring the continued speculation about the future ownership of the club and his own future, Dave Bassett, the Watford manager, who collected his now statutory boots from a section of the crowd, accepted an ovation for his side rather than the three points they deserved as a sign of things to come.

He praised his players' games, despite gaining only one point, adding: "If we play like we did in the last three games we will get out of trouble. If they can do that to Manchester United, they can do it to anybody."

Rostrom missed the chance of the match, Albiston made a

goal-line clearance and Turner made several saves to deny Watford. Bassett said: "Somebody has obviously got it in for us. I have no criticism. The boys did brilliantly."

Agana spearheaded most of Watford's attacks and could have had a goal or two. But no one epitomized the spirit more than McClelland, a tireless worker and every inch a professional.

Watford made their intentions clear from the start and Hodges flashed a shot into the side netting after four minutes when Porter provided the centre.

Agana held off a challenge from Bruce to test Turner, then Albiston cleared off the line from Hetherston with Turner adrift after saving from Jackett. It took United 33 minutes to test Kees, who was again preferred to Cotton, and he held a header from Gibson after Strachan broke on the right.

United, who left out Olsen and Moses after the goalless draw against Charlton Athletic, survived some hectic moments before the relief of the final whistle.

WATFORD: M. Rees; G. Chivers, W. Rostrom, K. Jackett, M. Morris, J. McClelland, P. Hetherston, A. Agana, S. Senior (sub: M. Allen), G. Porter (sub: Sherwood), G. Hodges.

MANCHESTER UNITED: G. Turner, V. Anderson, A. Albiston (sub: R. Rostrom), S. Bruce, K. Moran (sub: L. O'Brien), M. Duggan, B. Robson, G. Strachan, J. McClelland, W. Whitham, G. Gibson, R. Knap.



Rough justice: Jackett, of Watford, loses out to Whiteside at Vicarage Road on Saturday (Photograph: James Morgan)

Gillingham respond to protest

By a Special Correspondent

Gillingham's board of directors must today decide whether to demonstrate staged by hundreds of supporters on behalf of the former manager, Keith Peacock, following the 2-2 home draw with Fulham on Saturday.

Peacock, who was sacked by the club on Tuesday after almost a half year as manager, was at the stadium to watch his son Gavin, playing for the third division club.

After the match, as he went to his car, he was surrounded by supporters who lifted him shoulder high and carried him back down the street to continue his demonstration outside the club's main office.

The club chairman, Roy Wood, said yesterday: "We shall be discussing the matter at our meeting when we shall have the advantage of a report from the view of that I can't really see any purpose would be served by banning our former manager from the ground."

Peacock, who had 18 months of a two-year contract to run when he was relieved of his duties, said: "Gillingham has kindly said my wife and I and my daughter could have seats in the old directors' box and they had invited me into the boardroom afterwards. I decided, however, to slip away quietly, waiting some 10 minutes after the match before I left."

"There was no way I could have stopped the fans doing what they did. Everything was very orderly and non-violent and I considered it merely the supporters' right to say thank you for what I have done at Gillingham."

© The Grimsby Town forward, Scott McGarvey, has been interviewed by Cleithropes police after an off-duty officer reported that he used foul language to supporters during a pre-Christmas match. A Grimsby director, Tom Lindley, said: "Whether the board will take any action remains to be seen, but McGarvey has received a very stern warning and would be very unwise to repeat the offence."

© Brentford are to be sent an official police warning following their 3-2 win at Bristol City on Friday. The players stayed on the pitch for a training session with their player-manager, Steve Perryman, who had ended. They were called off by a police inspector concerned that home supporters would be provoked.

Lineker anger after Real master class

Madrid (Reuters) - A superb diving header by Hugo Sanchez gave Real Madrid, the Spanish league leaders, a 2-1 win here over Barcelona.

The turbulent Catalans have won their last three games and Gary Lineker, the England forward, was so disgusted at the poor service as his team colleagues were outclassed, despite Real missing four regular players, that he angrily waved away a television interviewer at the end.

Sanchez, the veteran Mexican, scored twice, taking his tally this season to 15, after netting a penalty in the 23rd minute when Butragueno was fouled. Barcelona also scored from a penalty by Schuster - the first against Real this season - but otherwise were only prevented from suffering a heavier defeat by the agility of Zubizarreta, in their goal.

Adventure lives on in QPR

By David Powell

Arsenal..... 0
Queen's Park Rangers..... 0

It may be that Queen's Park Rangers are less familiar than Arsenal with the first division high life, but they seemed more determined than their opponents on Saturday to make something of this Liverpool season. This was Rangers' fourth match without defeat and, significantly for those who bemoaned the departure of Fenwick, they have not conceded a goal in two games since their captain joined Tottenham Hotspur.

After 90 minutes which offered barely a suggestion of a goal, George Graham, the Arsenal manager, complained that a programme of four

matches in eight days was unfair on the players. But Rangers have completed the same schedule, made only one team change from Friday, compared with their hosts' three, and were making no excuses, which may have something to do with their taking eight points from the holiday period against Arsenal's two.

The championship lead, which Rangers held until mid-October, may be as irrevocable as 1987 but the willingness to run, and adventure while in possession, was a lesson to Arsenal.

"The fans suffered more than anybody because they didn't see quality football," Graham said, labelling his point. A dose of Charlie Nicholas might have warmed the cold afternoon, but he was in Scotland talking over his potential transfer to Aberdeen.

Instead, the best to be drawn from the game was an appreciation of Parker and the young Maguire, the reserve who has been given the job of replacing Fenwick in Rangers' five-man defence.

Jim Smith, the Rangers manager, who had not wanted to lose Fenwick, gave the impression of someone who had bitten on a lemon and tasted a plum. "Maguire had an outstanding game yesterday (Friday) and did a very good job today. We play the same system in the reserves and in the youth team and he had been playing in that position in the reserves."

"If he can control his aggression [he is being threatened with legal action for a tackle which landed the corner of Tottenham's Danny Thomas] he could be a good player. And he has done that in the last two games."

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Lyall chose Hilton as a central defender, to protect his attack in the belief that his height and general awkwardness would pay dividends on the heavy pitch. Hilton played his heart out all night, but he also missed two glaring chances that would have given him a more instinctive forward would surely have taken.

Inca, who had come on as a substitute for Parris, showed a more decisive touch when he gave West Ham the lead after an hour, missing a diving header but a firm drive which Sealey, the Luton goalkeeper, half-stopped before allowing the ball to slither over the line.

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Venables checks state of retreat

By Clive White

Chelsea..... 0
Tottenham Hotspur..... 0

It was fairy-tale time again at Stamford Bridge on Saturday when the journalists were assembled afterwards for a reading of their popular feature about the manager, *The Emperor's New Clothes*. But try as they might, Terry Venables and John Hollins failed to convince most of us that this derby match was not decided in anything more colourful than mediocrity.

They would have been more justified in covering up with excuses about fatigue than trying to look for proof why they thought the spectators got their money's worth.

The truth is that the supporters have been treated to a succession of holiday matches in which quality has inevitably suffered along with exhausted players. Even Venables had to admit: "We're absolutely shattered, as Chelsea's players are, I'm sure. And he added: "Four games in eight days is testing the spectators' pockets."

While both managers claimed a moral victory, Venables had more reason to be content with a point than Hollins for whom it was Chelsea's tenth League game without a win. Tottenham, too, were performing yet with the sort of cavalier spirit revived under David Pley's leadership, but Venables does seem to have checked the state of retreat in which he found them two months ago.

The acquisition of Fenwick has already bought more purpose and vigour to the team and he readily accepted the demands of midfield on Saturday in the absence of Ardiles, a victim of

Waddock to appear for Belgian side

By Dennis Signy

Gary Waddock, the Queen's Park Rangers and Republic of Ireland midfielder, who was forced to give up playing as a professional because of a medical ailment in his right knee, is to attempt a comeback in Belgium.

Waddock, aged 25, joins the first division side, Royal Charleroi, today on a six-month contract as he tries to resurrect his career. He has made only five first-team appearances for Rangers since being injured against Sheffield Wednesday in November 1985.

Waddock has received compensation in excess of £50,000 for having to retire. He would have to return the money if he made a comeback in Britain but would not have to do so if he played abroad.

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Glentoran leading by a point

By George Aco

Glentoran..... 1
Dundalk..... 0

Glentoran cleared a stiff away hurdle against Newry Town on Saturday to retain the leadership of the Irish League over the reigning champions, Linfield, and to leave the Beggars Glentoran, by a point.

An own goal after only three minutes by Gray gave an early indication that this was not going to be Newry's day. Despite some skilful approach play, that single goal still put the teams at half-time.

Eight minutes into the second half a superb diving header by Morrison sealed Newry's fate.

At Windsor Park, Linfield, who had a maximum 12 points from their four league fixtures, Linfield's leading scorer, McLaughlin, netted his 26th goal of the season just before the interval.

Murray, who had an outstanding game, spurned a penalty awarded early in the second half. Cooks saving a left-foot shot that lacked power. But with his next touch of the ball, Murray floated over an accurate cross and the ever-green MacLod headed home to wrap up the points and leave the bookmakers, if not Belfast's east end citizens, who visualise Glentoran's goal, in no doubt that Coyle's army are heading for their seventh successive League title.

A McCann goal after 10 minutes gave Glentoran the points at Purcell's, and Coleraine's upward surge continued with a 3-0 win over Hillsborough. Crusaders and Ballinacorney United played a goalless draw at Seaview. Waterlogged pitches caused the postponement of the Bangor v Larne and Carrick Rangers v Ards fixtures.

Port Vale's sale

Port Vale, of the third division, have placed four players on the transfer list. The defenders, Pearson and Banks, and the forwards, Maguire and O'Kelly, have been put for sale. Last week the manager, John Rudge, was called to an emergency board meeting to explain the club's recent poor results.

Simon signs

Andy Simon, Brentford's mid-field player, has signed a new contract keeping him at Griffin Park until the summer of 1990.

Ice-cool Celtic open the gap

By Roddy Pearsy

Celtic..... 2
Rangers..... 0

When Rangers or Celtic win a Scottish championship, the season of their meetings usually ends in a draw. So far this season, Celtic have taken five points out of six from Rangers and although the season has a long way to run, the Rangers and Celtic have an excellent chance of securing its centenary celebrations with a League flag.

On Saturday neither team looked much like championship material but that may have had a lot to do with the fact that Celtic were playing at home. The game passed off without a single player being booked, in contrast to the hard scenes when they last met in October.

Celtic carried the contest to their opponents and might have scored in the first half when McStay cut into the Rangers penalty area and laid off a pass for Walker which fell just behind the forward and was smothered by Woods.

Walker, the Rangers new boy, played a part in the Celtic goal, and when he was fouled by Morris, a quick free kick from Walker found Sweeney for a drive which crashed off McStay in front of goal. But the Rangers players were twice cancelled out by Celtic's defence.

First McAvennie prompted Miller into a low shot which Woods dived to deflect with his left hand and then Rangers had to make a spectacular tackle on McAvennie himself as he moved forward down on goal.

Francis came on for the weak Cooper and the game entered a curious phase. For 20 minutes, no Celtic player was able to touch the ball inside Rangers' penalty area, but although the visitors enjoyed almost total possession, they did not create a single chance and almost fell behind when Miller at last broke forward for a shot which Gough was obliged to block off the line.

There was no such cover when the half ended as Celtic's half-backs, who had a brilliant through ball to Morris on the right for a low cross which McAvennie had only to touch into the empty net.

The second half proceeded in the same style as the first, except that Rangers' half-backs, who had a brilliant through ball to Morris on the right for a low cross which McAvennie had only to touch into the empty net.

It was the goalkeeper's last contribution. He collided with R

FOOTBALL

the court of the French League
orders, who have already de-

By Mandarin

45 1. Star Of Kinloch (6-4); 2. ssard (5-4 fav); 3. Young Warrior (16-nan.
Stromer (12-1); 3. Pals Galore (10-1). 12
ran.

● Worcester abandoned — course
waterlogged.

I

By George Rae

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

By Nicholas Hartman

ward to get away with any other lapse of concentration on the court of the French League leaders, who have already de-

1000

By Ian Ross

the lapse of concentration on the court of the French League leaders, who have already de-

Selections

Selections By Mandarin

1

LEADERS TRAINERS

21	18	13	4	38.50	K. MOORE	22	16	7	3
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RESULTS

1). 7 min. ~~waterlogged.~~

Runners			Percent	JO
Runners	Runners	Runners	Runners	Runners

1

LEADERS TRAINERS

21	18	13	4	38.50	K. MOORE	22	16	7	3
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RESULTS

1). 7 min. ~~waterlogged.~~

